

Government of Bengal

Revenue Department

Report on the Administration of Bengal 1932-33

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INTRODUCTION.

This Report is as usual divided into two parts. Part I deals with important political and economic events and with the work of the Legislative Council during the calendar year 1933. Part II comprises a detailed account, based upon departmental reports, of the various branches of the administration during the financial year 1932-33. The Report is published under the authority and with the approval of the Government of Bengal, but this approval does not necessarily extend to every particular expression of opinion.

Bengal Administration Report, 1932-33.

Part I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

(a) Political Review.

The beginning of the year 1933 found Government in a stronger position than at any period since the end of 1929. The campaign of civil disobedience, which was revived in January 1932 after the return of Mr. Gandhi from the Round Table Conference, had been in operation for twelve months and had effected nothing. The prompt arrest of the principal Congress leaders, the immediate enforcement of a series of Ordinances, and the unhesitating prosecution of those who broke the law for political reasons threw the movement entirely out of gear and restored the morale of all those whose interests were incompatible with a regime of civil disorder. By the end of 1932 civil disobedience had practically ceased to exist either as an organised movement or as an effective political weapon. It would not be correct to say that popular sympathy with the aims of Congress was any less, but there was a growing realization that self-government was not to be achieved by the picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops or by the voluntary imprisonment of a few thousand persons. This change of feeling found expression in the readiness with which the Bengal Legislative Council passed the Public Security Act in November 1932, a measure which was paralleled simultaneously in the central and in other provincial Legislatures. It embodied most of the provisions of the Special Powers Ordinance and replaced the latter when it expired. Government was thereby furnished with adequate means to check the forces of disorder, and the country was offered the prospect of a steady return to peaceful conditions, and these powers were conferred, not by an edict of the Governor-General, but with the assent of the representatives of the people themselves. Moreover, as the Governor-General assured the Legislative Assembly, these provincial Acts Introductory.

were temporary measures designed to meet a temporary emergency. They were not intended to be retained upon the statute book in perpetuity, and it was hoped that they would only remain in force during the period of transition from the present to the future constitution. The Bengal Public Security Act remains in force only until December 31st, 1935.

Civil disobedience.

2. After the expiration of the Ordinances there were some attempts to reorganize civil disobedience in Bengal, but these met with little success. A number of hartals occurred on "Gandhi Day" (January 4th), but the only areas to which it was found necessary to extend the provisions of the Public Security Act were the Tamluk, Contai, and Sadar subdivisions of Midnapore district and the Arambagh subdivision of the district of Hooghly. His Excellency the Governor visited Midnapore, Mahisadal, Tamluk and Burdwan during the month of January, and was well received everywhere. On January 24th in the Patgram police-station of Jalpaiguri district a number of Congress volunteers and local roughs interfered with the public in a mela. The police arrested three persons, and were then attacked by a mob. They were compelled to open fire, and one man was killed. This was an isolated occurrence in no way typical of the state of the province. Even the celebration of Independence Day on January 26th evoked comparatively little enthusiasm, and an occasion which had previously resulted in encounters between the police and unruly crowds passed off quietly almost everywhere. In Calcutta 170 persons were arrested, and 51 were subsequently convicted for participating in unlawful processions. The Education Officer of the Calcutta Corporation took part in one of these processions and was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment in consequence. The proceedings of the Corporation itself on the previous day, however, afforded an indication of the gradual change in public opinion. When a councillor attempted to move a motion for the hoisting of the Congress flag on all Corporation buildings he was ruled out of order by the Mayor on technical grounds. Twelve months before such a resolution would probably have been admitted, and might well have been carried.

Congress session in Calcutta.

3. In the middle of February it was announced that the 47th session of the Indian National Congress would be held in Calcutta at the end of March, and the dates finally selected were March 31st and April 1st. The Nationalist Press at first paid somewhat scant attention to this announcement, and waited to see what action Government would take. It did, however, suggest that the Congress should be permitted to meet in plenary session so as to have an opportunity of discussing, and possibly of calling off, the civil disobedience movement, which was in varying degree admitted to have failed as an effective political weapon. One

particular reason for the general lack of interest was the fact that the Calcutta Corporation elections had been fixed for March 29th, and the two rival parties of Mr. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Bose had little time for anything else. Indeed the party of Mr. Bose pressed for the postponement of the Congress session until the end of April, and when this was refused it practically ceased to participate in the arrangements that were being made. Government on the other hand took up the position that Congress was still pledged to the policy of civil disobedience, and that as there was no reliable ground for believing that the object of the proposed session was the abandonment or even the modification of that policy the Conference could not be permitted to assemble. Accordingly on March 9th the Reception Committee was declared unlawful, and on March 22nd its president and secretary were arrested and convicted. On March 25th the provisions of the Public Security Act were temporarily extended to Calcutta, and also to portions of ten districts through which intending delegates were expected to pass. With the co-operation of other provincial Governments a number of these delegates were stopped outside Bengal. Others were intercepted during their train journey within the province. Others again were arrested on their arrival at Howrah. Mr. Aney was taken out of the Bombay mail train at Kharagpur, and was placed in Midnapore jail. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. Devidas Gandhi, Mrs. Moti Lal Nehru and others were detrained at Asansol, and were detained in the sub-jail there. On the night of March 30th extensive raids were carried out in Calcutta, and 500 delegates were arrested. Elaborate precautions were taken on the 31st, but no attempt was made to hold the session. That evening a meeting of the Subjects Committee was attended by a number of up-country delegates who were unknown to the police, and it was decided to hold the session at 3:00 p.m. on the following afternoon. In pursuance of this decision a crowd of about 800 persons assembled at the north end of Chowringhee, and Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta attempted to read something from a piece of paper. She was immediately arrested, along with 240 others, and the crowd was dispersed. A subsequent attempt to hold a meeting elsewhere was also frustrated, and that was the end of 47th session of the Indian National Congress. In all 920 delegates were arrested, of whom 440 came from the United Provinces and only 236 represented Bengal and Assam. These figures illustrate the comparative indifference of the province as a whole to the proceedings of this Congress session. On the other hand, in view of the Press suggestions of a possible change of policy on the part of the Congress leaders, it is interesting to note that the paper seized from Mrs. Sen Gupta contained among others a draft resolution re-affirming belief in civil disobedience.

Pandit Malaviya's allegations.

4. The arrested persons were released within a few days, and even the prosecution of Mrs. Sen Gupta was withdrawn. Government indeed had no need of further action, for the attempt to defy it had proved a complete fiasco. Mr. Aney returned direct to Nagpur, but Pandit Malaviya came on to Calcutta, where he met the local Congress leaders. He subsequently made a number of allegations against the Calcutta police in respect of the treatment meted out to the arrested persons. These allegations were not preferred by those persons at the time of their arrest, nor was any attempt made to bring them to the notice of the Legislative Council which was then sitting. No report concerning them appeared in the Press until some days after Pandit Malaviya's departure from Calcutta. Pandit Malaviya did not himself witness any of the alleged incidents, and none of the individuals said to have been affected made any complaint in any court of law. Government, however, caused a departmental enquiry to be held, and as a result of that enquiry was satisfied that no unnecessary force had been employed in effecting the arrests. The Secretary of State speaking in the House of Commons stigmatized the charges as maliciously false. Pandit Malaviya repeated them subsequently, but they found little independent local support and the agitation died a natural death. The charges against the police represented an attempt to divert attention from the manifest failure of the effort to override authority, and the only result was a further exposure of the futility of Congress methods.

Progress of civil disobedience.

5. Civil disobedience continued to decline during the month of April, and despite the efforts of Congress to the contrary the collection of chaukidari taxes in such strong-holds as the Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly and Midnapore district showed some improvement. An interesting anti-picketing development in Midnapore was the formation of a Merchants Association to encourage free and unrestricted mutual trading, and on the occasion of the Commissioner's Durbar this association presented an address of welcome. Government in fact was by this time able to adopt a policy of premature release of civil disobedience convicts whose offences had not been tainted by violence. Seventy-four such releases were effected in April, and the number rose during each of the succeeding months. Despite the eulogy of these convicts pronounced by Mr. Srinivasa Sastri at the 14th session of the National Liberal Federation held in Calcutta on April 15th, candidates for imprisonment were slow in coming forward, and the following figures are interesting. On July 1st, 1932 there were 3,693 civil disobedience convicts in the jails of the province. By the 1st January, 1933 the number had fallen to 1,704. On July 1st, 1933 the figure was 878, and by the 1st January, 1934

the total had dropped to 371. Convictions for civil disobedience offences, which numbered 844 for the first quarter of 1933, fell to 307 for the second quarter, to 264 for the third quarter, and to 157 for the last quarter of the year. The policy of premature release gave no impetus to the movement, for the country was weary of what was patently a barren failure. Economic conditions were against its success, and demands for an alternative and less sterile policy began to appear even in the nationalist Press. Three factors in particular tended to increase the volume of these demands, namely, the behaviour of Mr. Gandhi, the activities of the terrorists, and the publication of the White Paper.

Mr. Gandhi's fast.

6. Mr. Gandhi had been confined in Yeravda Jail at Poona since his arrest at the beginning of 1932. He was a state prisoner detained without trial, and as such was allowed considerable latitude in respect of correspondence and interviews. He had engaged himself primarily in a campaign for the removal of untouchability and for the uplift of "harijans," and in September 1932 he had indulged in a fast whereby he compelled Hindus to agree to the Poona Pact, which was accepted by the Prime Minister in modification of the Communal Award. The succeeding months saw a steady decline in the civil disobedience movement, and its total abandonment began to be seriously discussed. Apparently Mr. Gandhi felt that something new and striking was required as a focus for popular interest and enthusiasm, and at the beginning of May he suddenly announced his receipt of "a call from within" to undertake an unconditional and irrevocable fast of three weeks duration, apparently in expiation of the wrongs inflicted by the caste Hindus upon the untouchables. Prayers and protestations from anxious friends were unavailing, and the fast commenced on May 8th. An experiment of this nature undertaken at the age of sixty-four might reasonably be expected to terminate fatally, and Government was not prepared to allow Mr. Gandhi to expire in jail. He was accordingly released unconditionally and took up his residence at the house of a wealthy admirer in Poona. Here amid all the appurtenances of luxury, attended by the best Indian physicians, and strengthened by expert treatment he successfully underwent his self-imposed ordeal. The fast was the occasion for numerous perfervid outpourings in the Press, and the details of its daily progress were meticulously reported. At Mr. Gandhi's own suggestion the civil disobedience movement was temporarily suspended for the period of the fast, on the ground that Congressmen would be in such a state of nervous anxiety that they would be unable to do justice to it; and the period of suspension was subsequently extended up to July 31st. There was, however, little public excitement, apparently because the relationship of the

fast to practical politics was somewhat obscure; and the efforts of the Press to exalt the Mahatma to a position of saintly eminence did not result in any appreciable revival of interest in civil disobedience or in any noticeable accession of strength to the Congress itself. Certain non-Congress newspapers, indeed, did not hesitate to characterize the whole performance as an elaborately-staged publicity "stunt," undertaken with the sole object of restoring Mr. Gandhi's waning prestige and popularity.

Poona conference.

7. This temporary suspension of civil disobedience caused a still further decline in the movement. When Mr. Gandhi had recovered from the effects of his abstinence, private meetings of about 150 Congress leaders were held in Poona between July 12th and 14th. The majority of the delegates were apparently in favour of calling off civil disobedience altogether, but it seems that Mr. Gandhi would not agree to unconditional surrender. He wished to negotiate with the Viceroy, but the Viceroy rejected his overtures. No formal resolutions of this Conference were authoritatively published, but a statement was issued decreeing the dissolution of all local Congress organizations, inaugurating a campaign of individual civil disobedience for those who were ready to participate in it, and instructing those who were not to concentrate their attention upon social work and the removal of untouchability. Despite sporadic attempts in a few places the policy of individual civil disobedience found very little favour in Bengal, and there was a persistent demand for the open withdrawal of a movement which was declared to be already moribund. The breaking up of Congress organizations was criticized as being unconstitutional, and some resentment was expressed at the dictatorial attitude adopted by Mr. Gandhi himself. When his application for an interview with the Viceroy was refused, a section of the Press freely declared that he had drawn this rebuff upon himself. His closing of the Sabarmati Ashram was regarded as inexplicable, and the diversion of Congress energy at his orders from a political to a social objective was by no means popular. It was widely felt that the democratic organization built up by Mr. C. R. Das and other former leaders had been sacrificed to gratify the desire for personal ascendency on the part of one who was more of a mystic than a statesman.

Death of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta.

8. The depression which had descended upon the Congress in Bengal was intensified at this particular juncture by the death of one of its principal leaders. At the beginning of 1932 a number of prominent Congressmen in the province had been arrested and detained as state prisoners under Regulation III of 1818. Among them were Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, Mr. Subhas Bose and Mr. Sarat Bose. Mr. Sarat Bose was subsequently permitted to reside under restrictions at Kurseong; and in February 1933

Mr. Subhas Bose was allowed to proceed to Europe for medical treatment. Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was similarly allowed to live in comparative freedom at Ranchi on account of the state of his health, and he died there suddenly on July 23rd. He had been five times Mayor of Calcutta, and was also an ex-President of the Calcutta and Bengal Provincial Congress Committees, and the news of his death was received with dismay in Congress circles. Many eulogistic obituaries appeared in the newspapers, and numerous condolence meetings were held throughout the province. When his body was brought down from Ranchi a funeral procession attended by nearly 15,000 persons escorted it for twelve hours through the streets of Calcutta from Howrah to Kalighat, where a vast crowd attended the cremation ceremony. A feeble attempt was made by certain sections of the Press to suggest that his death had been accelerated by confinement, but the medical reports refuted this allegation, and it found little credence generally.

Mr. Gandhi's second fast.

9. Subsequent events tended to increase the uncertainty which clouded Congress policy. In pursuance of the move for individual civil disobedience Mr. Aney and one or two other leaders broke the law and again went to jail. On July 30th Mr. Gandhi notified the Bombay Government that he intended to march with 32 companions to Ras in the Kaira district and invite individuals to offer civil disobedience there. He was arrested on August 1st, and on his failure to comply with a notice served upon him he was sentenced to one year's simple imprisonment under the ordinary law. Although he was now a convict and not a state prisoner Mr. Gandhi apparently considered himself entitled to the privileges previously granted to him for "harijan" work. The Bombay Government agreed to allow him certain modified concession, but these did not satisfy him, and on August 16th he commenced another fast. While Government was accused by the Press in Bengal of meanness in rejecting some of the demands of a person of such lofty personal character, the opinion was also expressed that as a voluntary prisoner Mr. Gandhi should not have claimed any favours. Government itself pointed out that Mr. Gandhi's assertion that he could not live without full facilities for "harijan" work was inconsistent with his almost purely political activities after his previous release. During his three months of freedom he had shown no particular desire to do anything practical for "harijans" at all. There was no intention, however, of allowing him to become a martyr, and when his condition approached the danger point on August 23rd he was unconditionally released for the second time. This was acclaimed everywhere as an act of wisdom, and Mr. Gandhi himself evidently felt that he was placed in a difficult position. He accordingly announced his intention of abstaining from civil disobedience

during the unexpired portion of his sentence, and of devoting himself in the meantime exclusively to social and "harijan" work. Comparatively little interest was shown in Bengal in this second fast. Mr. Gandhi's "stock" unquestionably fell as a result of it, and there was a general feeling that by his recent behaviour he had betrayed the interests of Congress. Civil disobedience was dead; there was no alternative programme before the country; and the Congress movement had been deprived of the machinery through which alone it could function.

Mr. Gandhi's tour and Congress policy.

10. During September and October there was a political lull. Mr. Gandhi, however, was busy recuperating and making plans, and at the beginning of November he set out on an all-India tour in furtherance of his campaign for the removal of untouchability. The tour commenced in the Central Provinces, where a large number of places were visited. Crowds flocked to see him, and considerable sums of money were contributed towards the expenses of uplifting the "harijans." Mr. Gandhi's activities were not, however, welcomed by all alike, and members of the Sanatanist party were not prepared to suffer him gladly. In certain places they considerably inconvenienced the originator of "satyagraha" by the inconsiderate manner in which they prostrated themselves in front of his motor car; and at one meeting eggs were thrown at him. The details of the expedition were reported daily by the nationalist Press of Bengal, and as much stress as possible was laid upon the number of persons attending each meeting and the amount of money subscribed. Not so much was said regarding any improvement in the treatment of "harijans" in the particular areas through which Mr. Gandhi passed, and at the end of the year it still remained to be seen whether any permanent and practical benefits to untouchables would follow from his odyssey. In the meantime dissatisfaction continued to increase in respect of the uncertainty of Congress policy. In November the "All-India Varnashram Swarajya Sangha" issued from the "Temple Defence Committee's" office in Calcutta a statement calling for "an intensive fight against the barren and futile policy of the Congress, which, after fourteen years of Mr. Gandhi's leadership, has succeeded in disrupting the great national organization and in wrecking the ship of Indian progress." The Sangha claimed to represent that "section of the community which counts among its numbers 150 million Hindus, if not more, and is composed not of 'cotton spinners all' but of all those who love India and her glory yet." On November 25th a leading nationalist newspaper in Calcutta announced that "as a matter of fact there is no programme of useful work before the country. In the meantime communalism has added to the complexity of an already complex situation, and terrorism to the miseries of the people. The realities of the

situation demand the rejection of plans of action suited to conditions which no longer exist.'' The passages quoted were typical of many, and illustrated a decided and interesting change of front. Demands for the summoning of a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee increased in volume, and Pandit Jawarhlal Nehru, the General Secretary, who had been released from jail in September, was blamed for his inaction. The Pandit issued a lengthy statement of his own political beliefs, which demonstrated his complete conversion to the theory and practice of communism, and retorted that although he did not personally favour a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee he would summon one as soon as he received a formal requisition for that purpose. He pointed out that Bengal was represented on the Committee by 48 members, not one of whom had written to him officially, and that therefore it did not appear that there was any widespread desire for a conference. In the first week of December Mr. Gandhi reached Jubbalpore, and held meetings there with the Pandit and other leaders. The proceedings were in camera, and no decisions were published. Further conferences were held in Delhi when Mr. Gandhi arrived there a week or so later. It was expected in certain quarters that a new political programme would be evolved, but nothing of the sort was done. In answer to questions in the Legislative Assembly Government made it clear that, as long as Congress stood pledged to the policy of civil disobedience, its All-India Committee would be treated as an unlawful association. Those of its members who had been pressing for a meeting were not, apparently, prepared to go to jail, and Mr. Gandhi was not willing to call off civil disobedience. The result was a complete deadlock, and Mr. Gandhi departed for Bezwada leaving the political situation precisely where he found it, and giving a general "power of attorney" to the Pandit to act for him. The only real significance of the conversations at Poona, Jubbalpore, and Delhi was the proof which they afforded of the lack of courage shown by the Congress leaders, who in spite of the general feeling that civil disobedience had been thoroughly discredited, would not assert themselves against Mr. Gandhi. At the close of the year Mr. Gandhi was carrying out his tour programme in the Madras Presidency. He was expected to visit Bengal at the end of February 1934, and was the recipient of invitations of welcome from a large number of places in this province. It seemed probable, however, that there would be an element of discord in his reception, for on December 29th the Press reported the despatch to him by the Varnashram Swarajya Sangha, Calcutta, of a telegram which requested him not to come, as untouchability was not a live question in Bengal, and as his presence would "disturb peace and amity."

Terrorist activities.

11. While the star of civil disobedience and the prestige of Congress were thus waning, numerous incidents illustrated the strength and the widespread nature of the terrorist movement. On January 2nd revolutionary leaflets were distributed in Chittagong and in the Feni subdivision of Noakhali district. On January 4th bhadralok youths armed with revolvers committed a dacoity in Dinajpur, and decamped with Rs. 1,500. On January 8th a bomb explosion injured four persons in Bakarganj. On the following day an armed dacoity with revolvers was committed in Burdwan district, and an attack with iron rods was made by two Dacca youths upon a private of the Dorset Regiment with the object of robbing him of the revolver which he was believed to be carrying. On March 9th Monsieur Quin, the Commissioner of Police in French Chandernagore, was shot dead by three terrorists who had been hiding in the town and whom he was endeavouring to capture. Two escaped, but the third on arrest was found to be a man wanted in connection with the attack upon Sir Alfred Watson, the editor of the "Statesman," in the previous September. On April 18th, 25 youths with firearms raided a cutchery of the Nawab of Dacca at Gourepore in Tippera, attacked the Post Office near by, cut the telegraph wires, broke open the safes, stole a gun, and got away with Rs. 3,300. On May 24th there was an armed mail robbery in Bankura district. In June a youth, who had been expelled from a Chittagong school for going on strike, attacked the head-master with a dagger in broad daylight on a public road and cut off one of his ears. A mail runner in Manikganj was attacked by two youths armed with revolvers. Another runner was assaulted in Khulna district. On June 16th three bhadralok youths of Rajshahi robbed the employee of a local merchant of Rs. 1,000 in the centre of the town. There was an attempted robbery with arms in Dacca. Both in Dacca and in Chittagong youths were arrested with leaflets advocating the murder of Government officials, and a somewhat similar pamphlet entitled "Bloody Friday" was widely circulated in the districts of Rangpur, Dacca and Mymensingh. In July a "cocoanut" bomb exploded under the pilot engine of His Excellency the Governor's train near Faridpur, fortunately without doing any damage. On September 2nd Mr. B. E. J. Burge, I.C.S., District Magistrate of Midnapore, was assassinated when he was about to take part in a football match. Mr. Burge had just stepped out of his car and was walking on to the field when two young men, who with others had been kicking a ball about near one of the goals, closed in on him and opened fire with revolvers. Mr. Burge fell and died almost immediately. Mr. P. Norton Jones, Additional Superintendent of Police, and Inspector C. O. Smith, who were present on the field, at once grappled with the murderers, who were shot by Mr. Burge's

guards. One of the assassins died on the spot, and the other expired in hospital. Subsequent police investigations revealed the existence of a deep laid plot to kill the District Magistrate, and disclosed the fact that two previous attempts had been frustrated merely by chance. This terrible crime evoked a wider and apparently more genuine outburst of condemnation than that which had followed any previous outrage, but it was significant that alone of public men Mr. Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence, qualified his denunciation of the murder by blaming Government for measures which he alleged gave rise to the cult of assassination. The remainder of the year was marked by a number of terrorist dacoities and premature bomb explosions. On September 10th an individual was injured in Tippera by the combustion of some explosives which he was preparing. On October 13th the runners carrying the mails from the post office to the station at Suri, Birbhum district, were attacked and severely beaten by six persons, who robbed them of letters containing Rs. 2,000. On the 20th an armed gang of bhadralok youths attacked a house at Naldanga in Rangpur district, and decamped with Rs. 8,000 worth of cash and ornaments. Three were captured by the staff of a neighbouring railway station, and the police subsequently rounded up the rest. On the 24th four armed bhadralok youths at Kurigram robbed a number of train passengers at the point of the revolver. Two were chased and captured by villagers, and the other two were arrested later. On the 28th a number of bhadralok youths, wearing red pugris and khaki shirts and shorts, attacked the railway station at Hili in Dinajpur district. A fusillade of shots was fired, and a number of postal peons were wounded, one of whom subsequently died. The safe and the mail bags were rifled, and the raiders withdrew in two parties. One of these was traced to a village 20 miles away by a police constable, who showed great initiative in securing the assistance of a local zemindar and a large number of villagers. An ambush was laid, and the whole party was arrested with some arms and a portion of the booty. One of the arrested men had been previously convicted for possessing unlicensed revolvers, and had escaped from a running train while under transfer. Another was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of Mr. Luke, Superintendent of the Rajshahi Central Jail, in the previous year. In November a youth was injured in Munshiganj, Dacca district, by the explosion of a bomb in some premises which had been regularly used in the past as a "camp" for Congress volunteers. In December another youth was similarly injured in Dacca town by the explosion of a bomb which apparently fell out of his pocket. At the close of the year the persons accused of participation or complicity in the murder of Mr. Burge, and in the Naldanga, Kurigram, and Hili dacoities were under

trial by Special Tribunals; and a number of other young men were also being tried in what was known as the Alipore Conspiracy case, in which the evidence adduced by the prosecution revealed the existence of an extensive terrorist plot with ramifications throughout the province.

Government successes.

12. These incidents, however, illustrate only one side of the picture. On the other must be set the substantial successes obtained by Government against the terrorists, in the arrest during the year of a number of important absconders and suspects, and the recovery of a large quantity of unlicensed arms. In January a detenu of the Anusilan Party, who had absconded from village domicile, was arrested with a revolver in his possession, and an Armoury Raid absconder was secured in Chittagong while dressed as a Muhammadan. During the same month a Mauser pistol and some revolutionary leaflets were recovered from a house in Calcutta, and a parcel containing a revolver and thirty cartridges was intercepted in Tipperah. In February five live bombs and a seal of the "Hindustan Socialist Republican Army" were found in a deserted house in Burdwan district, and a Colt revolver was recovered from a party of youths in Mymensingh. On February 17th the efforts of three years were rewarded by the arrest of Surjya Sen, a notorious leader of the Jugantar Party and the principal organizer of the Chittagong Armoury Raid. This desperado was surrounded and captured by a police and military force near Chittagong after an exchange of shots, and an important suspect was arrested along with him. A few days later an absconder of the Sri Sangha Party, who had been wanted for two years, was arrested in Calcutta. In March plots for the rescue of Surjya Sen from Chittagong Jail were unmasked and frustrated, and some arms were recovered in consequence. Wanted men were also arrested in Dacca and Rangpur, and a female absconder wanted by the Cawnpore police was captured in a house in Calcutta with 76 sticks of dynamite. In April large captures of revolutionary literature were made in Chittagong, and a hand made pistol was recovered. The month of May was marked by conspicuous successes. In Chittagong as the result of continued pressure Tarakeswar Dastidar, the principal lieutenant and successor of Surjya Sen, was arrested by a party of troops and police, and Miss Kalpana Dutta, a dangerous terrorist, who had absconded from her bail, was caught at the same time. In the course of the encounter shots were exchanged, and two other suspects were killed and one was wounded. This important capture was paralleled almost simultaneously in Calcutta by the arrest of the absconders Dinesh Mazumdar and Nalini Das. Dinesh Mazumdar had been convicted for complicity in the bomb attempt upon the life of Sir Charles Tegart in Dalhousie Square in 1930, but had

escaped from Midnapore jail. Nalini Das had escaped from the Hijli detention camp at the end of 1931. Both of them were believed to have been implicated in the murder of Monsieur Quin at Chandernagore. They were traced to the upper storey of a house in Cornwallis Street, and were captured after an exciting exchange of shots with the police, in the course of which an Inspector of the Special Branch was wounded. In June and July large quantities of revolutionary literature were seized in Rajshahi and Rangpur. On August 2nd two revolvers and two automatic pistols were recovered from the room of a girl student of the Diocesan School, Calcutta. On the 11th a youth arrested in Calcutta was found to have a loaded five-chambered revolver in his pocket. A school-boy was arrested in the town of Bankura with a revolver and six live cartridges in his possession. During the months of August and September two more suspects were captured in Chittagong, an absconding detenu was arrested and convicted in Rangpur district, and four persons were apprehended in a house in Calcutta with terrorist leaflets and plans for terrorist crimes. On August 21st some more youths were arrested in Calcutta in possession of 177 sticks of dynamite, 32 sticks of gelignite, 118 detonators, and 3 coils of safety fuses. During October two unlicensed revolvers were recovered from youths in Birbhum and Bankura; and two loaded revolvers were seized from a person who had participated in the Naldanga dacoity and was subsequently arrested at Ishurdi railway-station. In November a wanted man was arrested in Chittagong, and in the house from which he attempted to escape there were found a revolver, ten rounds of ammunition, and a number of incriminating letters. On November 22nd a young man arrested in Calcutta was found to have on his person two revolvers and 25 rounds of ammunition, and a search of his room resulted in the seizure of two more fully loaded revolvers, 70 rounds of ammunition, a dagger, and a phial of sodium cyanide. During the first fortnight of December important suspects were arrested in Chittagong, two revolvers were recovered in Dacca, one in Mymensingh, one in Birbhum, and one in Chittagong, while a stolen double-barrelled gun was recovered in Rangpur. This record reflects the utmost credit upon the Police force, and is a tribute to their resourcefulness and devotion to duty. During the year under review a number of important trials were held by Special Tribunals, as a result of which Surjya Sen, Tarakeswar Dastidar and Dinesh Ch. Mazumdar were sentenced to death, and Nalini Das and Miss Kalpana Datta to transportation for life; while the trial of fifteen persons at Rajshahi came to an unexpectedly early conclusion when thirteen of the accused pleaded guilty to conspiracy and possession of arms or revolutionary documents.

Anti-terrorist action—: (a) Preventive Detention.

13. The number of persons detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act continued to increase, and despite the relegation of numerous detenus to home or village domicile the detention camps at Buxar and Hijli, the two camps at Berhampore, and the camp at Deoli in Ajmer-Merwara all remained in commission. In April a disgraceful fracas occurred in the Berhampore camp between the detenus and their convict servants, and the camp guards who intervened were also attacked. The Commissioner of the Presidency division held an enquiry, and reported that the detenus were the aggressors and were responsible for the disturbance. There was some newspaper agitation over the deaths of two detenus at Deoli, but the matter aroused little public interest.

(b) Deportation to the Andamans.

14. In 1932 the Government of India decided to deport to the Andaman Islands certain terrorist convicts whose presence in the provincial jails had an undesirable effect upon other prisoners, and who continued to form the nucleus of plots and conspiracies. In that year 58 persons were accordingly sent to Port Blair, and in 1933 a further 90 followed them. This policy aroused a certain amount of hostile criticism in the Press and on the platform, and an Andaman Prisoners Relief League was formed in Calcutta. In the middle of May a hunger-strike on a large scale commenced in the Cellular Jail at Port Blair, and continued for more than a month. The object was to extort concessions from the authorities, but the latter refused to be intimidated, and the Government of India announced that there would be no discussion of the alleged grievances until the strike was called off. It was unconditionally abandoned at the end of June, but not before one convict had died from shock as a result of resistance to forcible feeding, and two others had expired from an attack of pneumonia which they had not the strength to resist. This hunger-strike was the signal for protests in the Press and questions in the Legislative Council and in the Assembly. The statement made by the Home Member of the Government of India in the Council of State on September 11th dispelled a number of misapprehensions under which the public and the organizers of the agitation appeared to be labouring. It was explained by Sir Harry Haig that the persons deported were neither detenus nor persons sent to jail for civil disobedience offences. They were on the contrary terrorists convicted under the ordinary law of serious crimes involving violence. The Andamans had never been completely closed down as a penal settlement, and in addition to the 112 terrorist convicts there were over 6,000 ordinary prisoners there. The prisoners were well looked after, and the situation of the jail was as healthy as any in Bengal. It was noteworthy that no complaints regarding its suitability had been made until these terrorist convicts were sent there. The

object of sending them was to rid the provincial jails of the disturbing effect of their presence and to prevent these dangerous individuals from escaping or plotting with their friends outside. This statement was effective in reducing the misplaced sympathy for convicted terrorists which found expression in certain sections of the Press, and as a result the agitation engineered on their behalf attracted little further attention.

15. During the year under review extensive use was made of the powers conferred by the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and the Bengal Criminal Law (Arms and Explosives) Amendment Act, which had been passed by the Legislative Council in 1932. A large number of persons were tried and convicted by Special Magistrates and Special Tribunals appointed under the provisions of these Acts, and it is hoped that the sentences awarded by these Special Courts will have a deterrent effect upon would-be gangsters and anarchists. (c) Special Courts.

16. After the murder of Mr. R. Douglas, I.C.S., in 1932 an additional police force was quartered upon the town of Midnapore at a cost of Rs. 67,000, and the collection of this sum proceeded satisfactorily during 1933. Similarly after the murderous attack upon the Pahartali Institute at Chittagong in September 1932 a fine of Rs. 80,000 was inflicted upon portions of the town of Chittagong. Realization of this amount also proceeded during the year, and almost the whole of it was collected. In April a collective fine of Rs. 300 was imposed upon the village of Chuliapara, Chittagong, for withholding information concerning the presence there of the absconder Tarakeswar Dastidar; and in July a similar fine of Rs. 300 was fully collected from the village of Bidgram, Chittagong, the inhabitants of which had failed to assist in the pursuit of the same absconder. The movements of Hindu bhadralok youths in the town of Chittagong had been subjected to restriction, but the continued dissemination of revolutionary literature made further action necessary. Accordingly in May the District Magistrate issued orders under the Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act that with effect from June 20th all such youths between the ages of 12 and 25 must carry identity cards. Detenus residing in home or village domicile were provided with red cards, suspected persons with blue cards, and the rest with white cards. These were to be produced upon demand by any authorized officer or member of a vigilance committee, and non-production or interchange of these cards was made an offence. The object of this measure was to facilitate the identification of suspected persons and the prevention of recruitment among schoolboys by members of terrorist organizations. To further the latter object it was also ordered that Hindu boys should ordinarily attend only those High or Middle (d) Punitive measures.

English schools lying within a radius of three miles from their homes. Prosecutions for the breach of these orders demonstrated the determination of the authorities to enforce them, and it would appear that they have met with considerable success. Following the assassination of Mr. B. E. J. Burge, I.C.S., in September similar measures were brought into force at Midnapore. One hundred extra armed police were quartered in the town at the expense of the inhabitants, and Hindu bhadralok youths were made to carry identity cards. Certain roads were closed to the public, some buildings were occupied, and a number of persons were externed from the district altogether. Towards the end of the year collective fines of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,500 respectively were imposed upon the villages of Purbakanara and Kanungopara, Chittagong, the inhabitants of which were either concerned in or were assisting in the commission of offences of a terrorist nature. In November certain provisions of the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act were extended to the district of Mymensingh, and orders were subsequently issued by the District Magistrate externing from the district a number of persons connected with the terrorist movement.

(e) Employment of troops.

17. In 1932 it was decided as part of the campaign against terrorism to increase the military establishment in Bengal, and accordingly towards the end of that year a battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment was stationed at Dacca and six battalions of Indian troops were posted at Chittagong, Comilla, Mymensingh, Saidpur, Bankura, and Midnapore. In Chittagong these troops were extensively used during the first half of 1933 in connection with an organized drive against local terrorists and in search of the remaining Armoury Raid absconders. A large number of suspected areas were combed out, many cordon and search operations were executed in conjunction with the police, and the arrests of Surjya Sen, Tarakeswar Dastidar and Miss Kalpana Datta were effected by police and military parties. An unfortunate incident occurred on March 7th, when two Muhammadan cultivators, who fled when challenged by a military picket in a suspected area, were shot dead in mistake for escaping absconders known to be in the vicinity. This incident provoked questions in the Council and Assembly and severe criticism in the nationalist Press, but it was clear from the circumstance that the troops were not to blame, and Government undertook to compensate the relatives of the deceased. The period of intensive operations ceased with the advent of the rains in June, but they were resumed towards the end of the year. The other six battalions were mainly occupied in executing flag marches throughout the districts concerned. Three companies of the 1st Battalion of the 9th Gurkha Rifles operating from Comilla visited a number of places in

Tipperah district, and one company carried out a march from Barisal to Gournadi in the district of Bakarganj. Companies of the Dorsets performed marches in the Sadar and Munshiganj subdivisions of Dacca district; and similar operations were executed by the 1st Royal Battalion 9th Jat Regiment in the Sadar, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Jamalpur, and Tangail subdivisions of Mymensingh. The 1st Battalion of the 3rd Gurkha Rifles stationed at Saidpur visited the districts of Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Malda, Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra. The 1st Battalion of the 1st Gurkha Rifles operated on the same lines in the Sadar and Vishnupur subdivisions of Bankura district, and also visited parts of the districts of Hooghly, Jessore and Nadia. In Midnapore district the 3rd Battalion of the 18th Garhwal Rifles carried out flag marches in all the subdivisions, and also assisted the police in executing a number of cordon and search operations in Midnapore town and elsewhere. Similar operations were in progress during the cold weather of 1933-34. The troops were well received everywhere, and their good behaviour served to dispel the fears that had been entertained and sedulously fostered by agitators in areas where no military forces had been seen for more than one hundred years. It only required a very short experience for the people to realize that the bogey of a "licentious soldiery" was a myth, and in almost every place visited not only was hospitality generously offered to officers and men alike, but great interest was also evinced in the military displays that were organized. As an instance of this interest it may be mentioned that no fewer than ten thousand persons attended a demonstration of machine-gun fire given by the 9th Jat Regiment on the chars of the old Brahmaputra river at Mymensingh.

General Review of Terrorism.

18. The senseless murder of Mr. Burge was the darkest blot in the year's record of terrorist crime. This outrage stirred feelings very deeply all over the country. Some of the Hindu newspapers renewed the cry that the measures adopted for dealing with terrorism had demonstrably failed. The truth, however, is that the general situation as regards terrorist crime decidedly improved during 1933. There was a marked reduction in the number of outrages and political dacoities, and in several cases there was a most welcome disposition on the part of the public to join with the forces of Government in rounding up the culprits. This was particularly noticeable in respect of the Naldanga, Kurigram, and Hili dacoities, which have already been mentioned. In addition police and military forces working in liaison throughout the year executed a number of operations which resulted in the capture of large quantities of arms, ammunition, and explosives, and in the arrest of many dangerous absconders and suspects.

Generally speaking the police and the magistracy were better equipped than before to grapple effectively with the terrorist movement, and proposals were under consideration at the end of the year for strengthening their hands still further. Terrorism, however, is far from being stamped out, and much remains to be done. Recruitment still continues in schools and colleges, large numbers of arms are known to be still in circulation among members of revolutionary organizations, and desperate characters are still at large in various parts of the Province. While these conditions continue there can obviously be no guarantee against further outrages, and the situation must continue to be one of anxiety, calling for constant vigilance. The process of attaining success against this widespread movement is slow and difficult; but on the other hand there is definite reason for believing that the terrorist groups have been in a large measure disorganized, and that the policy of steady pressure is having its effect.

The White Paper and the Communal Award.

19. Even before its publication on March 18th the White Paper was condemned in anticipation by the extremist newspapers, and its appearances was greeted with a chorus of criticism from all sections of the Press. This criticism fastened mainly upon the "Special Powers" and "Safeguards," and the proposal that the scope of provincial autonomy should not be extended to include the All-India Services was opposed even by Moderate and Mahommedan papers. It was suggested that the activities of the Churchill group were being cunningly worked up with the object of making the proposed reforms more acceptable by contrast with a less attractive alternative. Even the prospects of financial relief held out to Bengal were belittled as inadequate. At the National Liberal Conference in Calcutta on April 15th criticism of the White Paper was the burden of almost all the speeches, and the "Safeguards" were deprecated as detrimental to the real interests of India. In spite, however, of this campaign of rather stereotyped condemnation in the Press and on the rostrum, it soon became evident that general interest was wanting. The clamour for further concessions proceeded rather from a growing political self-consciousness than from any reasoned dissatisfaction with what was proposed. The left wing of the nationalist Press professed indifference to the possible success of the opponents of the White Paper in England; but generally speaking the bhadralok class, and in particular the Hindu intelligentsia, soon began to realize that provincial autonomy in some form or other was approaching almost more rapidly than they liked. This was accompanied by a renewed outcry against the Poona Pact of September 1932, and an attempt to secure modification of the Communal Award. Interest tended in particular to crystallize round the proposed allocation

of seats in the new Lower House, and as the full implications of the Poona Pact became clearer a chorus of protest arose from the leaders of the Hindu community. Of the 80 seats allotted to the general Hindu constituencies, 30 were to be reserved for the Depressed Classes by the provisions of the Poona Pact. The caste Hindus thus found themselves with only 50 seats in the general constituencies, as opposed to the Mohammedans with 119. On the ground that a great wrong was being done, that the cultural predominance of the caste Hindus entitled them to more considerate treatment, that the ratio of 80 to 119 was based upon numerical strength only and took no account of the real position of the Hindu community in the Province, and that no Hindu leader from Bengal had agreed to the Poona Pact, an agitation headed by the Bengal Provincial Hindu Sabha was organized for the modification of the Communal Award itself. When the Joint Select Committee of the two Houses of Parliament commenced the hearing of evidence in London in respect of the proposals outlined in the White Paper, Sir Nripendra Nath Sarkar, the Advocate-General of Bengal, made strenuous efforts to convince the Committee and His Majesty's Government of the justice of the Hindu claim. Mr. B. C. Chatterji, the representative of the Hindu Sabha, gave evidence to the same effect; while the case for the Mahommedans of the province was presented by Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi. From the side of His Majesty's Government it was pointed out that in the Communal Award the proposals for the representation of the two principal communities had been based upon numerical strength for all the Provinces, and that a pledge had been given not to vary the recommendations in this respect except with the mutual agreement of the communities concerned. One variation consistent with this pledge had been made by the acceptance of the Poona Pact, which was the result of a voluntary agreement, and any further modification depended upon a mutual understanding between the Hindus and the Mahommedans themselves. It was also suggested that, in addition to the 50 seats allotted to them, the caste Hindus of Bengal had every prospect of securing a considerable proportion of the 5 seats reserved for Landholders, of the 2 seats reserved for Universities, of the 8 seats reserved for Labour, and of the 5 seats reserved for Indian representatives of Commerce and Industry. The effect of these various arguments was still uncertain at the end of the year, as the Report of the Joint Select Committee was not expected to be ready until the spring of 1934. The ultimate reaction of the controversy upon the policy of Congress in Bengal was equally undecided. While there was a growing belief that the boycott of the Legislature should be abandoned, a significant feature of the year was the failure of the province to produce any Hindu leader capable of formulating a

definite programme. Argument was confined mainly to the Press, and public opinion was left to be moulded by obscure journalists representing no particular party. The Mahommedans on the other hand were becoming more and more conscious politically, and while holding that the White Papers proposals for provincial autonomy were inadequate, they showed no desire to surrender any of the advantages which those proposals conferred upon them. There appeared at the close of the year to be little prospect of any mutual agreement materialising in the near future.

Communal situation.

20. In fact the relations between the two great communities continued to deteriorate during the year. Bakr-Id in April passed off quietly, except for a fracas at Behala near Calcutta; and there was no trouble during the Mohurrum in May. In July, however, an orgy or communal rioting occurred over an area of 3 or 4 square miles at Beldanga in Murshidabad district. Previous causes of friction had been removed by a local agreement, but on July 3rd the Mahommedans resented the interpretation of its terms in respect of music before a certain mosque. Some time after the procession playing this music had broken up, stray assaults were committed upon Hindus, and a threatening crowd went to the dak bungalow where the Subdivisional Officer and the Circle Inspector of Police were staying. The latter was severely beaten, and the crowd was only dispersed after fire had been opened. During the next two or three days there was looting and arson by several Mahommedan mobs, and two Hindus were killed and one severely injured. Police were rushed to the locality, and the situation was speedily brought under control. Both communities claimed the protection of the authorities, rival meetings of protest were held in Calcutta, and a deputation from the Hindu Sabha waited upon His Excellency the Governor. In the Legislative Council one member of the opposition congratulated the Police on the manner in which they had restored order, and a prominent Mahommedan leader admitted that his co-religionists had been guilty of wanton excesses. The trials of various persons alleged to have participated in these riots were still proceeding at the close of the year. In Noakhali an agitation was carried on by the Hindu Press against the activities of the Krishak Samities, the majority of whose members were Mahommedans; and the District Magistrate, who also happened to be a Mahommedan, was the target for considerable abuse on account of his alleged failure to take more stringent action against his co-religionists. In a speech on St. Andrews Day, His Excellency the Governor exposed the unjustifiable nature of this Press campaign, and declared that the officials at Noakhali had the confidence of Government. More significant than these local quarrels was the gradual hardening of Muslim opinion on the political issue.

While the future policy of the Congress remained uncertain, and while the Hindu community was a house divided against itself over the questions of civil disobedience, temple admission, and Council entry, there were indications of a determination among Mahommedans to work the White Paper proposals and to resist any modification of the Communal Award likely to affect the proposed allotment of seats in the new Legislature.

Calcutta Corporation.

21. The Corporation elections were held on March 29th. Electioneering and canvassing had been vigorously carried on by the two rival parties of Mr. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Bose, and the feeling aroused seems to have been responsible for a tragic occurrence in the central municipal office on March 30th. During the counting of the votes of one Ward quarrels broke out between supporters of the candidates, and a Mahommedan was stabbed to death in a fight with two Hindu roughs. The result of the election left the Corporation much as it was before, and there were 48 Councillors out of 91 who supported one or other of the Congress factions. Political manœuvring continued in respect of the election of aldermen, deputy mayor, and mayor; and only a split in the Mahommedan vote prevented the election of a Mahommedan as mayor of Calcutta. As it was Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, a prominent Congressman, was chosen to fill that office, and 4 out of the 5 aldermen elected were Congress nominees. A noticeable feature of this election was the return of two ladies as councillors, and the election of Mrs. Sen Gupta as an alderman.

The Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act.

22. The chief event in the history of the Corporation during 1933 was, however, the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act by the Legislative Council. The immediate occasion of this legislation was the Corporation's reception of certain letters written by Government in 1932. These dealt with the employment of political convicts in Corporation schools, the failure of the Councillors to take action upon audit reports, their neglect to obtain for various schemes the sanction required by law, their unbusinesslike methods of dealing with contracts, and their increasing failure to collect the Corporation dues. The Corporation in reply repudiated responsibility for the political activities of its teachers out of school hours, glossed over its failure to take action on audit reports, denied that sanction was required for the schemes referred to, and gave no satisfactory answer in respect of contracts or the collection of taxes. Government decided that the attempt of the Corporation to override the statutory provisions of the law could not be tolerated further. The Calcutta Municipal Act provided no proper machinery for the enforcement of these provisions; and to remedy this defect a Bill to amend certain of its

sections was introduced in the Council in April and was passed into law in August. The first part of this Bill disqualified from appointment or further service as an officer or employee of the Corporation persons convicted of an offence against the State or sentenced for any offence to imprisonment for a term of three months or more. It also prohibited grants by the Corporation without the sanction of Government to any institution employing such persons. The second part provided for disallowance by the auditors of any item of account contrary to law, and for surcharge of the same on the persons responsible for its payment; and it further provided for recovering from any person of the amount of deficiency or loss incurred by that person's omission, negligence, or misconduct. The passage of the Bill was marked by denunciations in the nationalist Press, and by the strenuous opposition offered in the Council by a small group of pro-Congress members. It was argued that conviction on account of political views did not involve moral turpitude, and should not be a bar to appointment; that the Corporation was no slower than many Government departments in dealing with audit objections; that the electrical schemes referred to were entirely separate operations requiring no sanction; that the principle of disallowance and surcharge was vicious, and that its application in practice would make the work of the Corporation impossible. The main theme of the attack, however, was that a semi-autonomous body like the Calcutta Corporation ought not to be interfered with, and that the passing of the Act would constitute a blow at the principal self-governing institution in Bengal. These arguments were not hard to meet. In support of the Bill statistics were given of the number of Corporation employees whose activities had brought them within the scope of the penal or preventive provisions of the criminal law, and it was recalled that the Education Officer of the Corporation had been sentenced to three months imprisonment in the previous January for leading an unlawful procession. It was highly undesirable that the children in the Corporation Schools should be exposed to the influence of such persons. The average length of time taken by the Executive of the Corporation to dispose of an audit report was three years. The electrical operations referred to were inter-connected, and formed part of one scheme, for which sanction ought to have been taken. Contracts had been allotted without signed agreements and without any proper attempt to ensure completion within the prescribed time limit. The arrear dues of the Corporation had risen from Rs. 1·02 lakhs in 1920-21 to Rs. 36 lakhs in 1932-33. The transfer to a Government Department of the collection of taxes on motor vehicles had revealed a loss of Rs. 15,00,000 in three years owing to the inefficiency of the Corporation's collecting agency. It was further pointed out that the main duty of the Corporation was the effective

administration of the City of Calcutta in the interests of the rate-payers as a whole. In practice the administration was inefficient, and was being conducted on political lines in the interests of a single political party. The principles of disallowance and surcharge were in force in English and Scottish Municipalities, as well as in the cities of Madras and Bombay. The provisions of the Bill would protect the interests of the rate-payers and of the Corporation itself, and would not diminish the extent of the autonomy to which it was legally entitled. These arguments carried the day, and the Bill was passed by a majority of 65 votes to 16. On the whole the opposition to it was of a stereotyped and unconvincing nature, and the main effect of the debate was to emphasize the fact that the Corporation was a creature of the Council, and could not be permitted on political grounds to violate the provisions or the spirit of the Act which created it.

Control of the Press.

23. The restraining influence to which newspapers were first effectively subjected in 1932 continued during the year under review, and had a salutary effect. There was an noticeable diminution of the offensive language, the deliberate misstatement and misrepresentation of facts, and the organized campaign of hate which disgraced some sections of the Press in 1930 and 1931. During the course of the year security was demanded in 26 cases, and in 9 of these complete or partial forfeiture was ordered, while 79 warnings were conveyed to individual editors by the Press Officer.

Government Propaganda and Publicity.

24. The measures previously inaugurated by Government with the object of countering the misrepresentations of a hostile Press, and of educating the public in respect of the realities of political and economic issues, were continued and expanded during the year. The number of touring cinema parties, which from 3 in 1931 had been increased to 10 in 1932, was further raised to 12 in 1933. These parties were allotted to the various civil divisions, and toured extensively in nearly every district in the province, showing films relating to village reconstruction, public health questions, and the beneficent activities of Government. Audiences ranging from 500 to 10,000 persons attested the popularity of the performances. The films were supplemented by lectures of an explanatory nature, and reports from local officers have established the utility of this form of propaganda. The dissemination of leaflets and pamphlets, which was begun in 1930, was also continued during the year, and in all 1,340,050 copies dealing with 31 different subjects were distributed gratis throughout the province. These pamphlets dealt with political, economic, educational, agricultural, industrial, constitutional, and public

health questions of a topical nature. They aimed at refuting by facts and figures the fundamental misconceptions current among the people, and attempted to educate the public in constitutional issues and to place before it the varied activities of Government in a fair and comprehensive manner. They also explained the measures and policy of Government in respect of controversial matters, and demonstrated the moral, social and economic evils of the civil disobedience movement. It is difficult to appraise the exact effect of this form of propaganda, but it would appear that generally speaking the results have been satisfactory.

Attitude of the Press to important events.

25. In January the return to India, and the subsequent public utterances, of the delegates to the Round Table Conference gave rise to considerable comment in the Press, and a pessimistic view of the effectiveness of the Conference was expressed by almost all the newspapers. The questions of untouchability and temple entry received comparatively little attention in comparison. The announcement in February of the forthcoming Congress session in Calcutta was received very cautiously, and the Press waited to ascertain the views of Government before committing itself. On the other hand the departure of Mr. Subhas Bose for Europe was given great prominence, and the restrictions placed upon the manner of his departure were condemned. The Budget came in for the usual criticism, and the attitude of Government towards the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee was declared to be unsatisfactory. As regards the disturbances in Alwar the Muhammadan press was inclined to the belief that the rebels had genuine grievances which merited redress. The Hindu press on the other hand regarded the troubles as communal in origin, and deprecated intervention against the wishes of the Maharaja. In March the White Paper was almost universally condemned. The details of the Calcutta Corporation elections were widely reported. There was no lack of condemnation of the measures taken by Government to frustrate the attempt to hold the Congress session in Calcutta, and in spite of the fiasco in which this attempt resulted, several extremist newspapers pretended that its object had been attained by the reading of a portion of a resolution by Mrs. Sen Gupta. The Calcutta Municipal Amendment Bill, which was introduced in the Legislative Council in April, was stigmatized as a deliberate blow at the Congress element in the Corporation, and various other ulterior motives were also suggested. The sentences passed upon the British engineers in the Moscow trial were contrasted favourably with those awarded in the Meerut case. In May Mr. Gandhi's fast stirred the Press very deeply, and the newspapers lost no opportunity of reporting every detail of its progress. His release was appreciated, and the temporary suspension

of civil disobedience was approved; but while some papers characterized suspension as a preliminary to complete withdrawal, others were at pains to describe it as a mere temporary expedient. The official communique regarding the fracas in the Berhampore detention camp was condemned as one-sided; the Government enquiry into Pandit Malaviya's allegations against the Calcutta police was stigmatized as being of a white-washing nature; and an open and public investigation of both occurrences was demanded. The official communique issued in June regarding the hunger strike of terrorist convicts in the Andamans was described as incomplete. The further suspension of civil disobedience again produced suggestions for the total withdrawal of the movement. July was marked by hostile criticism of much of the evidence tendered before the Joint Select Committee in London, and the replies of Sir Samuel Hoare with reference to the intentions of His Majesty's Government were held to confirm the worst suspicions regarding the political future of India. The riots at Beldanga were the occasion for mutual recriminations by Hindu and Mahommadan newspapers, and adverse criticism of Government's handling of the situation was conspicuous by its absence. The proceedings of the Poona Conference convened by Mr. Gandhi were followed with great interest, but the results received a decidedly mixed reception, and not a few newspapers declared that Congress had been betrayed by its dictator, who had sacrificed it to the interests of the untouchables. The death of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was the occasion for a great outburst of sentiment, and pages were filled with reports of condolence meetings. In August the Memorandum on Burma was held to be yet another exhibition of machiavellian imperialism. Interest in the Hindu papers began to centre on the alleged injustice done to the Hindu community by the Communal Award, and the activities of Sir N. N. Sarkar in London in this connection were followed and reported with approbation. The result of the appeals in the Meerut case produced a eulogy of the Allahabad High Court. Mr. Gandhi's second fast did not meet with complete approval, and excited little real enthusiasm. Conditional release was deprecated, and his unconditional liberation was warmly acclaimed as a step towards rapproachment between Government and Congress. The transfer of Aden to the control of the Colonial Office was only halfheartedly condemned. The assassination of Mr. Burge at the beginning of September was reprobated in no uncertain fashion by the entire Press, and many newspapers openly recognized the need of some remedy for the terrorist menace. On the other hand the opportunity of throwing mud at the Midnapore police in respect of the searches which followed the murder was seized upon as an excellent excuse for diverting attention from the murder itself. Attacks were made

upon the Honourable Minister in charge of Local Self-Government in connection with the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act, the opposition to which in the Legislative Council had been backed by certain sections of the Press. The Lancashire and Japanese Cotton Missions were regarded with some apprehension, and when the Cotton Conference commenced its sittings at Simla in October it was declared that there was a grave risk of Indian interests being sacrificed. The restrictions enforced in Midnapore were the occasion for some grumbling and disapproval. Pandit Jawarhlal Nehru's economic theories, as revealed in a statement made after his release, were held to be unacceptable as likely to lead to social disruption. When in November he delivered an attack upon the Hindu Mahasabha, he was taken to task by even the most extreme Congress papers in Bengal. His failure to summon a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee was also condemned. Great interest was evinced over his meeting with Mr. Gandhi at Jubbalpore at the end of November, and the subsequent discussions at Delhi were followed with attention. Disappointment was not concealed at the failure of the Congress leaders to envolve a new line of policy in place of civil disobedience, and although the details of Mr. Gandhi's "harijan" tour in the Central Provinces and Madras were prominently reported and he was assured of a welcome in Bengal, the provincial Press was at the close of the year insistently demanding a new political programme.

Offences against Women.

26. The alleged increase in the number of offences against women attracted the attention of the Press during the year under review. On July 5th a leading article appeared in "Amrita Bazar Patrika" in connection with the increase of assaults by Mahommedans upon Hindu women, and the writer remarked that Bengal "perhaps outstrips all other Provinces in regard to these heinous crimes." On July 21st at the Police Parade held in Dacca His Excellency the Governor pointed out that since 1930 the Police had been paying special attention to this type of offence, and that the figures did not support the suggestion of any special increase in the number of these crimes, or the allegation of Bengal's unenviable pre-eminence in respect of them. On the 25th August a circular letter appealing for funds was issued by the Women Protection Committee of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Sabha. This letter noted that "there has been an alarming increase in the number of crimes against women in this Province. In most of these cases Hindu women are generally the victims." The figures do not support either of these contentions. The total number of cases reported to the Police under sections 354/366/376 of the Indian Penal Code for each of the four years 1929-32 inclusive was 778, 697, 729, and 772, respectively. The total number of "True" cases reported

to the Police and the Magistracy combined for the same four years was 1,029, 684, 690, and 821, respectively. The total number of persons arrested was 2,006, 1,389, 1,552, and 1,657, and the total number of persons convicted was 409, 402, 352, and 499. These figures speak for themselves. With regard to the communal aspect of the subject the figures are equally interesting. For the six years 1926-31 inclusive the number of Hindu victims was 324, 325, 304, 367, 362, and 338; while the number of Mahommedans was 494, 579, 657, 538 and 582 respectively. These figures show, not only that there has been no appreciable increase in the number of Hindu women assaulted, but that more Mahommedan than Hindu women have suffered in this connection, and that it is in respect of the Mahommedan women that there has been some increase in the number of outrages. It is noteworthy also that, while outrages by Mahommedan men upon Hindu women during each of these six years numbered 114, 122, 105, 114, 109, and 125 respectively, those perpetrated by Hindu men upon Hindu women totalled 205, 201, 198, 231, 234, and 194, respectively. The suggestion that Bengal's record is worse than that of other provinces is also refuted by the figures. While the evil undoubtedly exists and while the figures available may not reveal the full extent of it, they are nevertheless a sufficient indication of the truth to enable it to be said that special action or legislation by Government is not required at the present moment. The subject, however, is not one which can be disposed of by statistics. That such crimes are perpetrated is a blot on the province, and the sense of horror they evoke is a welcome sign of a rising public conscience.

(b) The Legislative Council.

27. The present Council dates from July 1929. The Government of India (Amendment) Act, 1933 (23 and 24, Geo. V, Ch. 23) amended the parent Act by removing the limitation on the power of the Governor to extend the term of the Council beyond the normal period of three years. The life of the present Council was due to expire on July 1st 1933, but with the amendment of the law its term was extended for one year. During the year the grouping of parties remained the same as in 1932, and the two Mohammedan and the one Hindu Minister continued to enjoy the support of a large section of the non-official members. **Groups.**

28. Two Sessions were held during the year, the first lasting from February 20th to April 4th, and the second from August 8th to September 8th, comprising a total of 43 sitting days. Of these days, fourteen and a half were occupied with the Budget, **Sessions.**

sixteen with other official business, and twelve and a half with non-official business. His Excellency the Governor addressed the House on February 28th, and reviewed the measures taken to deal with civil disobedience, terrorism, and the economic crisis. In particular he expressed appreciation of the promptitude with which the Council had passed the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and the Bengal Public Security Act in the previous Session.

Acts passed.

29. In the course of the year eleven Acts were passed, of which three were sponsored by non-official members. The most important of all was the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act, 1933 (Bengal Act XI of 1933), which has already been dealt with elsewhere in this Report. Of the rest the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Act II of 1933) provided by means of reserved seats for the representation of minority communities on district and local boards. The Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VI of 1933), which was piloted by a non-official member, sought to eradicate commercialized vice. The Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VII of 1933) attempted to reduce the state of rural indebtedness by checking the rapacity of mahajans and the abuses of usury.

Bills.

30. At the end of the year four official Bills were pending. The Bengal Cess Amendment Bill, which sought to effect a more even incidence of Cess, and the Bengal Waterways Bill, which provided for the appointment of a Waterways Trust to control the inland waterways of the province, had both passed the Select Committee stage. The Presidency Small Cause Courts Bill and the Bengal Nurses Bill were in circulation for opinion under the direction of the Council. In addition to these there were three other official Bills of minor importance which had been published for information. Ten non-official Bills were also pending. The final report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Wakf Bill was presented on August 14th, and on September 1st the Select Committee on the Bengal Mela Sanitation Bill recommended that it should be withdrawn. Eight Bills of a minor nature were in circulation for eliciting opinion. During the year three non-official Bills were withdrawn by their sponsers, three others were refused a reference to a Select Committee, and a seventh was rejected on a motion to take it into consideration.

Questions.

31. Notices of 638 questions were received, of which 509 were put and answered, 53 were disallowed, 7 were withdrawn, and 69 remained unanswered at the close of the session for which they had been set down. For the three sessions of 68 sitting days during 1932 the corresponding figures were, questions received 1079, asked

853, disallowed 101, withdrawn 31, and unanswered 94. The decrease is noticeable, but unimportant questions still take up too much valuable time in the Council. In addition to those referred to above a large number of supplementary and short notice questions were put and answered.

32. The number of resolutions on matters of general interest tabled for discussion was 235. The number of topics actually discussed was 15. The proposals contained in the White Paper were considered, and reports of the debate were forwarded for submission to His Majesty's Government and the Joint Select Committee. In this connection the necessity for a second chamber in Bengal was debated with some vehemence. A motion by a non-official member, urging the necessity of appointing representative Indians from Bengal (preferably from the Council) for consultation with the Joint Select Committee, was also carried. Another non-official motion, urging Government to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the fact that the Poona Pact was inapplicable to the peculiar circumstances prevailing in Bengal, that it was injurious to the interests and subversive of the solidarity of the Hindus of the province, and that it did not fulfil the conditions of a substituted agreement envisaged by the Communal Award, also proved successful and was carried. In the division on this last resolution Government remained neutral, the non-official Europeans abstained from voting, the majority of the Mahommedans and Depressed Class members opposed the motion, and the caste Hindus, one Nationalist Mahommedan, one Depressed Class representative, and one Indian Christian member voted in its favour. A resolution urging the employment of Bengalis only in appointments under the Government of Bengal was carried without a division. Resolutions urging the transfer of all provincial subjects and their administration by the Governor acting with Ministers, and urging the appointment of a committee to examine unemployment among the bhadralok class and devise means for its amelioration, were withdrawn after discussion. A resolution urging the repeal of the provisions in the Bengal Tenancy Act regarding landlords' transfer fees, pre-emption, and enhancement of rent, was defeated by 45 votes to 36. No motions for the adjournment of business were actually discussed, but notices of two such motions in connection with the figures of the final jute forecast and the searches carried out in Midnapore after the murder of Mr. Burge were received. They were rejected by the President as they did not conform to the requirements of the rules and standing orders. No orders had been passed at the time of prorogation in respect of a motion to give facilities to Depressed Class witnesses from Bengal to appear before the Joint Select Committee. On the 29th March a non-official member

Resolutions.

moved an amendment of the Standing Orders to give greater power to the President to expedite the disposal of non-official business other than Bills. On that date the member did not secure the necessary support, but the proposal was moved again on August 22nd, and was referred to a Select Committee.

Annual Budget Grant.

33. The discussion over the Budget proposals lasted for twelve days, and there were 805 motions for the reduction or refusal of demands. This compares with 1,163 motions put forward in connection with the 1932 Budget. The discussion was so prolonged that demands under seven heads fell under the guillotine rule and had to be put without debate. The Government was not once defeated in connection with this Budget, and all the demands were granted in full. The Council followed the convention which is gradually gaining favour of using the opportunity offered by token cut motions for raising discussion on questions of policy and administration. Attempts were made to reduce the number and the salary of the Ministers, and one member by a token cut motion vehemently attacked the Honourable Minister for Education and his administration of the Department. All these attempts were defeated.

Other grants.

34. There were three motions for supplementary or additional grants, of which one was for Rs. 50,000 to cover the cost of the military forces at Chittagong and elsewhere. A token cut motion as a protest against the accidental shooting of two villagers in Chittagong district was lost by 49 votes to 16. Much of the discussion on these and the Budget grants was of a stereotyped nature, and many of the questions related to matters of minor importance and of little interest to the general public.

(c) Industry and Labour.

Industrial disputes.

35. The industrial situation remained quiet during the year. There were a number of small strikes in jute mills over the question of the reduction of wages, but they were of an ephemeral nature. In May 3,000 members of the Calcutta Corporation Scavengers Union struck work and created a disturbance at the Entally gowkhana. Their behaviour was so violent that they had to be dispersed by the police, but their grievances were subsequently investigated, and an agreement was reached. During the summer the retrenchment programmes of the Bengal-Nagpur and East Indian Railways caused a certain amount of unrest, and at one time the breakdown of the negotiations between the labour unions and the railway authorities threatened a wholesale stoppage of work. In June the Secretary of the Labour Union at Kharagpur raised Rs. 2,350 for a strike fund by performing a fast in front of the railway workshop gates, but efforts to bring about an actual strike were unsuccessful. In August a prominent agitator, who

was attempting to foment trouble in the workshops at Lilloah, was externed from the district of Hooghly by the civil authorities. In December the Calcutta Scavengers again went on strike for several days, but they soon resumed work, and as they failed to formulate any specific grievance the Corporation refused to appoint a committee of enquiry. There was no subsequent development, and the situation was quiet at the end of the year.

36. There was a certain amount of activity on the part of other trade unions during the year. In March the Bengal Mariners Union claimed for itself one of the eight seats reserved for Labour in the proposed new Legislative Council. The Carters' Union held a meeting in Calcutta to thank Government for the investigation into their grievances made by the Pearson Committee, and to demand that control of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should be transferred either to the police or the Calcutta Corporation. At the end of March a Labour Union was formed at Narayanganj, and in May a Bengal Fishermens' Union was incorporated. During the same month the Bengal Trade Unions Federation was registered, with an initial working capital of Rs. 10 and the declared object of socializing the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and of establishing a socialist state in India by peaceful and constitutional means. In September the Bengal Mariners' Union and the Indian Quartermasters' Union submitted to Government a joint memorandum claiming that 5 out of the 8 seats reserved for Labour in the new Legislature should be allotted to registered trade unions. In November the Indian Seamen's Union decided to support a non-official bill for the reservation of seats for Labour on the Corporation of Calcutta. A number of other unions held meetings in Calcutta during the year, but the latter do not merit detailed reference here as they were usually poorly attended and had little practical result. Apart from the railway unions and perhaps one or two other bodies trade unionism in Bengal is not yet an effective force, largely owing to the exaggerated importance attached to the holding of meetings and the passing of resolutions, and the scanty attention paid to those principle of collective action, which should form the real basis of the movement. **Activities of other labour unions.**

(d) Economic situation.

37. Although no natural calamity of a major kind occurred during 1933, the economic situation on the province continued to be gloomy. There was some distress in East Bengal at the beginning of the year, and conditions in the Presidency division also were bad. The rainfall during June and July was below the average, but very heavy rain fell in many places during August, and the resultant floods in the Contai and Ghatal subdivisions of Midnapore district at one time assumed serious proportions. They **General.**

declined in September, but not before considerable damage had been done to the crops. Relief work was undertaken by Government, and Rs. 3,000 in gratuitous relief and Rs. 54,000 in the form of loans were distributed throughout the areas affected. The acreage under jute exceeded that of last year and the jute crop was good. Unfortunately a small and early rise in the price proved illusory, and it soon fell again to about Rs. 3 per maund, or even lower. The paddy crop was fairly good. There was no lack of food in most areas, but there continued to be a great scarcity of money. Rural indebtedness increased, and cultivators found even greater difficulty than before in paying their rents and in satisfying their mahajans. The difficulty of collection was experienced equally in Government and in zemindary estates, and resulted in not a few of the latter defaulting in respect of Revenue and Cess payments. Although liberal extensions of time were allowed for payment, and exemption was frequently granted on receipt of only a portion of the dues, more estates than in the previous year had to be put up for sale. The worldwide economic depression affected trade and industry alike. The middle classes were badly hit, and the members of the legal profession suffered severely from the decrease in the volume of criminal and civil litigation. The prospects at the end of the year were not promising, and it was clear that the economic factor would loom large in the coming year.

Praja and Krishak Samities.

38. Economic difficulties during the first half of the year resulted in greatly increased activity on the part of Praja and Krishak Samities. A number of new associations sprang up in East Bengal in February, and demands were made for a rent moratorium for 3 years. In March meetings of cultivators were held in Dinajpur and Murshidabad districts, and resolutions were passed for the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act and the abolition of landlords' transfer fees. At one such meeting a cultivator took the chair and announced that the Congress had done nothing for the peasants and that Mr. Gandhi's behaviour towards them was not satisfactory. On March 19th a largely attended peasants' Conference was held at Ghatal in Midnapore district. In Pabna a number of landowners expressed anxiety at the proposals for rent reductions that were being put forward. In April a Conference was held at Rajshahi, and a number of meetings took place throughout Malda district. In Noakhali there was a newspaper agitation against the Krishak Samities. In May the movement was reported to be gaining ground in the Rajshahi, Dacca, and Chittagong divisions; and local politicians of the Congress persuasion attempted to secure control of it in some places. One such attempt to capture the executive committee of a Praja Samity

at Mymensingh was frustrated by the Subdivisional Officer and the Chairman of the district board. There was considerable activity in the Tangail and Narayanganj subdivisions, and Hindus of Tippera and Noakhali districts expressed apprehension at the rapid spreading of the movement among the Mahommedan cultivators. In June there was further evidence of an attempt to capture these associations for political purposes. An ex-convict made an anti-Government speech in a meeting at Bogra, and a meeting ostensibly of cultivators was organised by some political suspects in the district of Hooghly. Several persons attended the latter wearing red shirts, and a leaflet containing an oath for the "Plough Army" was circulated. An agitator of anti-landlord proclivities made his appearance in Tangail subdivision and organised several meetings. In July an orderly meeting of 2,000 persons took place at Madaripur. The advent of the rains saw a great falling off in the activities of the Praja and Krishay Samities, and during the latter half of July and throughout August and September very few meetings were held. With the arrival of the cold weather, however, activity recommenced, and in November a revival of interest was reported from Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, and Jessore. There seems to be little doubt that the cultivating classes are evincing greater interest in their economic condition, and it appears probable that they would welcome any reasonable attempt to relieve their difficulties without harming the interests of the landlords. Most of the meetings held during the year were of a restrained and orderly nature, and violent attacks upon the rent collecting classes were few. Absentee landlordism, and low wages which induce corruption among the collecting staff, came in for criticism, but "no rent" theories are unlikely to gain ground in a society containing a large proportion of rent receivers, and local reports upon the situation at the end of the year tended to confirm this view.

Board of Economic Enquiry.

39. In view of the deterioration of the economic situation Government had for some time been considering the question of creating an organisation for the study of economic problems affecting Bengal. Various considerations prevented action being taken upon the proposal made in 1931 by Sir Arthur Salter, Director of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations Secretariat, for the establishment of an Economic Council in each province, which would work under a Central Economic Advisory Bureau. On November 30th 1933, however, His Excellency the Governor in his speech at the St. Andrew's Day Dinner, announced that Government was convinced of the necessity of making a sustained effort towards the reorganisation of the rural economy of the province. Various projects for debt conciliation, land mortgage banks and development of the co-operative movement

had been examined, and as a first step towards facilitating co-operation between Government and outside opinion a Board of Economic Enquiry would be set up. An official communique issued on the following day stated that this Board would consist of a Chairman; six representatives of commerce to be nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Association, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, and the Bengal Mahajan Sabha respectively; two representatives nominated by the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca; two representatives of agricultural interests; one representative of Labour; two non-officials interested in economic problems; the Directors of Land Records, Agriculture, and Industries; the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; the senior Professor of Economics at the Presidency College, Calcutta; and two officials interested in economics and statistics. The functions of the Board would be to conduct enquiries into such matters as might be referred to it by the Local Government, and to initiate and conduct, subject to the sanction of Government, enquiries into other economic problems also. This announcement created widespread public interest, and was favourably received by all sections of the Press. The Board was expected to start functioning in January 1934 with an annual grant of Rs. 15,000 to cover the cost of its enquiries. In pursuance of the same policy Government further announced on December 23rd the creation of a special post of Rural Development Commissioner. These two measures constituted a definite attempt to solve the economic difficulties which beset Bengal, and gave grounds for the hope that 1934 would see the province moving definitely towards the recovery of its former prosperity, and towards the restoration of conditions which would deprive the irresponsible agitator of those opportunities for mischief presented by economic distress.

Death of Sir William Prentice.

40. On December 11th the Government of Bengal suffered a severe loss by the death of Sir William David Russel Prentice, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S. Sir William Prentice had completed 32 years as a member of the Indian Civil Service. Appointed Chief Secretary in 1926, he became a permanent Member of the Executive Council in April 1930, and was in charge of the Political Department during the difficult years 1930-33. During a period of severe strain and anxiety he never allowed criticism or misrepresentation to deflect him from what he considered to be the right course, and he played an important part both in the political development of the province and in the maintenance of law and order. His sudden death following an operation deprived Government of one whose ripe experience and mature judgment could ill be spared.

Part II

CHAPTER I.—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

For—

Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples,
Historical summary,
Forms of administration,
Civil divisions of British territory,

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II, pages 1-123.

Changes in Administration.

There was no change in the administration during the year 1932-33 under review. His Excellency Sir John Anderson, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., continued to be the Governor of this Presidency and the personnel of the four Executive Councillors was the same as in 1931-32, viz., the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Hon'ble Alhadj Nawab Bahadur Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi, KT., the Hon'ble Sir W. D. R. Prentice, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Woodhead, C.I.E., I.C.S. The composition of the Ministry was the same as in the previous year. The Ministers were—the Hon'ble Nawab K. G. M. Faroqui, Khan Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazim-ud-Din, C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, KT.

CHAPTER II.—TRIBUTARY STATES.

Cooch Behar.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1932-33.]

General.

2. Area 1,318 square miles; population 590,866, as against 592,489 in 1921; chief products rice, jute, tobacco and mustard seed; military force 199 (including 91 armed police); present Maharaja His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

Political Agent.

3. During the year under review Mr. J. G. Drummond, I.C.S., Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, was the Political Agent.

Finance.

4. The revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 26,53,228 against Rs. 26,11,308 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 41,920. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 26,64,338 against Rs. 27,51,011 of the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 86,673.

State Railway.

5. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,50,337 and the net earnings to Rs. 1,87,848, showing an increase in both gross and net earnings as compared with last year's figures.

Crops and condition of the people.

6. The rainfall during the year was 155·84 inches against 155·77 inches of the previous year and the normal rainfall of 123·85 inches. The price of common rice ranged from Rs. 2-2 to Rs. 4 per maund· of tobacco from Rs. 5 to Rs. 27 per maund; of mustard seed from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 5 per maund; and of jute from Rs. 2-14 to Rs. 5 per maund. The price of paddy and that of the other chief crops of the country were almost the same as in the previous year. The weather was not favourable for the growth of jute, and the crop was damaged to some extent by untimely rainfall. As a result of the low prices ruling for this commodity the area under cultivation this year was considerably smaller than in the year preceding. Owing to the prevalent trade depression the economic condition of the people was not good.

7. The total number of cases reported during the year was 1,933 against 2,326 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 393 cases. Under section 157 (*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code the Police refused investigation in 134 cases during the year, as

against 186 in the previous year. One hundred and three appeals were preferred. In 41 of these the original orders were confirmed, in 31 the appeals were rejected, in 16 the orders were modified, and in 12 they were reversed. Three cases remained pending at the end of the year.

8. The general health of the people was on the whole good. Cholera was almost unknown during the year under report, but there was a considerable increase in the number of cases of small-pox. The number of patients suffering from malaria who attended the State hospitals and dispensaries was somewhat higher than in the previous year. Public health.

9. The number of high English schools was 5 as in the preceding year. The number of middle English schools was 23, of which 21 were aided and 2 unaided, as against 21 aided and 1 unaided in the previous year. The number of middle Vernacular schools, including 3 special schools, was 13 as against 14 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the raising of one middle Vernacular school to the status of middle English school. The total number of institutions for the special education of Muhammadan pupils was 21, as against 17 during the previous year. During the year under review the total number of schools rose from 327 to 350, the number of pupils from 12,445 to 13,817 and the average daily attendance of pupils from 8,766 to 9,356. Education.

10. The total expenditure on primary and secondary schools amounted to Rs. 90,906, against Rs. 90,702 of the last year. The State contributed to Rs. 40,609 and the people Rs. 50,297.

Tripura.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1932-33.]

11. Area 4,116 square miles; population 3,82,450; military force 352; the second Tripura Bikram Company has been recognised by the Government of India as a "B" unit under the Indian States Forces Scheme; present Maharaja His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur. General.

12. During the year under review the District Magistrate of Tippera was the Political Agent. Political Agent.

13. The gross revenue based on the average of the previous five years was Rs. 20,01,308 from the State and Rs. 10,41,930 from zamindaries, as against Rs. 21,21,349 and Rs. 10,95,924 respectively in the preceding year. The total receipts from all sources including deposits, loans and law charges recovered, amounted to Rs. 25,90,046, as against Rs. 25,93,182 in the previous year. The total sum available for expenditure, including the Financial.

opening balance was Rs. 36,55,196 against Rs. 35,65,848 in the previous year. The actual income including receipts under debt-heads amounted to Rs. 22,43,703, as against Rs. 20,84,512 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 1,59,191. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 26,49,915 against Rs. 25,00,698 in the year before. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 10,05,281.

Crops and condition of the people.

14. The rainfall of the year was 70·56 inches against 82·74 inches in the previous year. The quinquennial average was 86·37 inches. Its distribution was fairly even. The principle crops in the State are paddy, cotton, til, mustard, jute, tea, rice and sugar-cane. There was no improvement during the year under report in the financial condition of the people. The world-wide economic depression continued to be felt, and low prices for staple crops ruled, although there was, however, some improvement in tea prices.

Public Health.

15. During the year under report neither cholera nor small-pox broke out in the State in virulent form. There were 36 deaths from cholera, and 6 persons were attacked by small-pox, of whom one died. The general health of the people was on the whole good.

Crime.

16. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,198 against 1,300 in the previous year. In all 943 persons were arrested in connection with various offences, of whom 827 were sent up for trial. The percentage of theft cases in which stolen property was recovered was 14·73 against 22·38 in the previous year.

Education.

17. Including 5 high English schools, one branch high English school, and private schools, the total number of schools was 205 against 213 in the previous year. The number of pupils was 9,623 against 9,230. These figures include 1,823 pupils reading in private institutions, which numbered 53 against 34 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,28,441 against Rs. 1,27,620 in the previous year.

CHAPTER III.—LAW AND ORDER.

Police Administration in Bengal.

[The Report on the Police Administration of the Bengal Presidency for the year 1932.]

18. In spite of the continous strain to which all ranks were subjected the battalion of the Eastern Frontier Rifles maintained its past efficiency and discipline. It is hoped that the annual training of batches of men of the battalion at the army schools, which has been arranged, will still further enhance the value of the battalion as a semi-military force.

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

19. The number of constables recruited was 1,880 against 2,159 in 1931, while the number of vacancies at the end of the year was 72 against 56, 146 and 206 in the three previous years. Additional police under section 15 of Act V of 1861 had to be posted during the year in the jurisdictions of Keshpur, Sutahata and Nandigram police-stations in the district of Midnapore, as well as in Midnapore town. A similar force was also employed within the limits of Sonamukhi municipality in the Bankura district. These forces, with the exception of those posted to Midnapore town and Keshpur police-station, were withdrawn during the year, and also the force posted to certain localities in the Chittagong district in the previous year. The temporary force (Range reserve) of armed police consisting of 945 constables, with the necessary complement of officers, was retained throughout the year to meet the heavy continuous calls on the armed police. It is regrettable that the experiment of enrolling Namasudras in the armed branch has not proved a success. In future suitable men of this community will be employed in the unarmed branch only. Casualties showed a decrease under all heads except "retirement" and "dismissal", and the percentage fell from 5·7 in 1931 to 5·3 in the year under review. This is the lowest figure since 1912. It is gratifying to note that there was again a marked drop in the number of resignations. Admissions into hospitals increased from 14,390 in 1931 to 16,071 in the present year. As pointed out last year, this was due to continuous extra work and to unsatisfactory housing conditions. Financial conditions rendered it impossible to make any noticeable progress in this direction.

Recruitment and health of the force.

Discipline.

20. Discipline continued to be maintained at a high standard. Although there was a slight increase in the number of punishments imposed departmentally, there was a considerable decrease in the number of punishments imposed judicially. The number of complaints instituted against the police by private individuals fell from 253 in the previous year to 221. Out of the 221 cases instituted, 118 ended in dismissal, 52 in acquittal or discharge, and only 17 in conviction.

Crime statistics.

21. Though the number of cases of murder and burglary showed a slight increase, there was a decrease in the total number of cognisable cases. The number of rioting cases fell from 1,212 in 1931 to 911 in the year under review. Theft of arms showed a slight increase—121 cases against 116 in 1931. The largest number of cases of theft of arms were reported from the districts of Mymensingh, Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna and Rangpur. Cases of offences committed against women under sections 366 and 354, Indian Penal Code, showed an increase of 94 over the figure of the previous year—Burdwan, Nadia and Hooghly being the main contributors. As in the past, investigation into such cases are being pursued zealously with a view to check an evil which has been the object of public comment to a steadily increasing extent in recent years.

Criminal tribes.

22. The conduct of the inmates of the Karwal Nat Settlement was reported to be fairly satisfactory, while the industrial school at Nilphamari showed steady progress. The management repaid Rs. 1,000 of the Government loan of Rs. 10,000, and expects to pay a further sum of Rs. 1,500 within the course of the next few months.

Working of the rural police.

23. Though there were instances in which individual members of union boards materially assisted the police, there was yet no general improvement in this direction. On the other hand there were a number of occasions in which chaukidars showed considerable bravery and devotion to duty. In Chittagong a chaukidar arrested a political absconder. In Faridpur a chaukidar, though wounded, chased some dacoits who were armed with revolvers. In Dacca a chaukidar was seriously injured in attempting to arrest some dacoits. In Khulna a daffadar, in spite of threats of personal violence and intimidation, assisted the police in dealing with a gang of dangerous criminals.

Revolutionary crime.

24. The year showed no diminution in the activity of the terrorists, and the number of serious crimes committed by them was larger than in previous years. The Pahartali outrage in Chittagong in which Mrs. O'Sullivan, aged about 65 years, was shot dead and five other women and eight men were wounded, gave an indication of the depth of criminality to which terrorists

have sunk. The list of cold-blooded assassinations was formidable. The murder of Mr. R. Douglas, I.C.S., District Magistrate, Midnapore, was followed in quick succession by the murders of Babu Kamakhya Prosad Sen, Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Munshiganj, and Mr. E. B. Ellison, Additional Superintendent of Police, Tippera. Attempts were also made on the lives of Mr. Grassby, Additional Superintendent, District Intelligence Branch, Dacca, and of Mr. Luke, Superintendent of the Rajshahi Jail. Captain Cameron lost his life while endeavouring to effect the arrest of some absconders at Dhalghat, Chittagong, following the Pahartali incident. There was also a number of bomb outrages, fortunately without injury to anyone. Great credit is due to the officers of the Intelligence Branch for the steadily increasing efficiency with which they have combated revolutionary crime and have thwarted a number of terrorist plots before they reached maturity. The frequent arrest of absconders and suspects, the seizure of weapons carried by unauthorized persons, and the occasional discovery of stores of explosives and weapons are at once an indication that the ramifications of the movement are yet both wide and deep, and an evidence of the effective working of the Intelligence Branch itself. So long as the sinister movement which has brought such discredit upon this Province remains uncrushed, all the resources of Government will be utilized in support of the Intelligence Branch and its campaign against terrorism.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1932.]

25. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police at the end of 1932 was 5,658, the same as at the end of the preceding year. The number of resignations during the year also equalled the figure in the previous year, being 18. There was a decrease of four in the number of vacancies at the end of the year, while the average daily percentage of the sick showed a slight increase from 1·52 to 1·58. It is gratifying to note that recruits with better educational qualifications now come forward for enlistment in the constabulary. **Strength.**

26. There was an appreciable decrease in the number of punishments inflicted on members of the force judicially and departmentally as compared with the figures of the previous years. **Discipline.**

27. There was an increase in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police. It is, however, noteworthy that this increase related to offences other than offences under the **Crime statistics.**

Indian Penal Code, the number of cases under the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts and those under the Motor Vehicles and Hackney-carriage Acts having risen by nearly 9,000, 4,500 and 2,900, respectively. In spite of the fact that for the greater part of the year 2 Inspectors and 3 Sub-Inspectors of the Criminal Investigation staff had to be deputed to assist the Press and the Civil Disobedience Sections the work of the Detective Department was satisfactory. It assisted the local police in 92 cases as against 96 in the previous year, and made independent investigations in 161 cases against 142. The Special Detective staff of the Port Police continued to do valuable work, and achieved good results from efforts chiefly directed against terrorists and their agents on the look out for smuggled firearms.

Revolutionary crime, seditious speeches and meetings.

28. The year under review saw no respite from terrorist activities. Ten cases were reported and investigated in connection with terrorist conspiracies, outrages, and the seizure of explosives and firearms. These cases, which represent only part of the fight against terrorism and revolutionary crime, threw upon the Calcutta Police a heavy and trying burden. The efficiency and courage with which the officers and men concerned met this demand upon their resources and personnel deserve the highest praise. All sections of the force took part in this campaign, and a higher standard of efficiency in detective and preventive work combined with the arrest of many dangerous terrorist criminals has strengthened the position of Government against this deep-rooted menace. Of the reported cases of terrorist crime already mentioned one was an attempt by a lady graduate on the life of His Excellency Sir Stanley Jackson, late Governor of Bengal, while he was delivering an address at the annual University Convocation in the Senate Hall, and two were murderous attempts on the life of Sir Alfred Watson, the then Editor of the *Statesman*. It is significant that in the majority of these cases the culprits were either students or clerks of the Hindu *bhadralog* class. There were also a number of prosecutions for seditious speeches delivered at public meetings, and several publications were proscribed.

Public order.

29. A satisfactory feature of the year's administration was the absence of any serious communal friction. The action taken under the Emergency Powers Ordinance to combat civil disobedience was effective in rendering that movement entirely innocuous.

Traffic.

30. The success with which the Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act was administered is worthy of special notice. Trade depression was responsible for a further decrease in the receipts under the Motor Vehicles Act in respect of both the registration of

vehicles and licensing of drivers. It is satisfactory that the efforts made to educate motorists in the courtesies of the road and in the observance of the laws were reflected in a decrease in the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents caused by motor vehicles. The attention paid to the instruction of candidates for professional licences in approved training schools, and the rigid tests to which all licensees and applicants were subjected, were also important factors which contributed to the reduction in the number of accidents.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1932.]

31. For sessions work the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Thirty-six Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judges were employed for varying periods in 21 districts, and decided 502 cases. Twenty-two temporary Additional Sessions Judges were also employed in different districts on sessions work. Judicial staff.

32. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 456 stipendiary and 421 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 16 and 135 respectively on the numbers of the previous year. Three special magistrates were employed, two at Faridpur and one at Noakhali for 74 and 63 days, respectively, during the year. They decided 2 and 95 cases respectively. Of the 456 stipendiary magistrates, 287 exercised first, 133 second and 36 third class powers. There were 91 benches of magistrates constituted from among 384 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of these, 75 were independent and 16 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act. Magisterial staff.

33. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 382,338 against 371,114 in 1931. Offences reported.

34. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 329,953 were found to be true, and of these 291,635 were brought to trial. Cases found to be true.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

1.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

35. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 131,222 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 160,413 in the courts of magistrates in the Number of cases.

mufassal. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was 3,822 more than in 1931. There was an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws as well as under the Penal Code. Under the latter head there was a noticeable increase in offences affecting the public health and a decrease in cases of hurt.

Results of trials.

36. The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 80·7 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly to 98·7.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

Cases disposed of.

37. Including cases committed to the sessions, 160,861 cases were disposed of during the year. The disposals were distributed as follows:—

District Magistrates	56
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates	132,820
Honorary Magistrates	16,614
Benches of Magistrates	11,228
Special Magistrates	97

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 46 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The total number of cases disposed of by the District Magistrates was 102, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Howrah (22).

Results of trials.

38. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 243,330 persons were accused. Of these 127,822 or 52·5 per cent. were convicted and 115,508 or 47·5 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

Punishments.

39. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	28,085
Fine or forfeiture	96,884
Whipping	132

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 12,49,296. Rupees 6,29,094 were realised, of which Rs. 91,483 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code.

40. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 7,413 against 6,868 in the previous year.

Witnesses.

41. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 385,041 as compared with 356,631 in 1931. The number who attended and were discharged without

examination was 145,850 or 27·5 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. The percentage in the preceding year was 28·3. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 2,92,848, in 1931 to Rs. 2,54,609 in 1932.

42. During the year under review 1,177 union benches established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, in 22 districts tried 130,486 persons, of whom 102,342 were discharged or acquitted and 8,577 remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 3,412 persons were transferred for trial to other courts. One hundred and eighty-four persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 8,393. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 44,131 and the amount realised was Rs. 32,016, out of which Rs. 636 were ordered to be paid as compensation. Applications for the revision of the orders passed by union benches were made by 1,397 persons. The reports of the districts in which union benches are established show that the benches are becoming more popular and are affording some relief to the magistracy. **Union benches.**

III.—Courts of Sessions.

43. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of sessions was 2,261 against 1,810 in the previous year. **Cases disposed of.**

44. There were 8,083 persons, or 48 more than in 1931, under trial before the courts of sessions. Of the 6,611 persons tried, 3,250 or 49·2 per cent. were convicted and 3,163 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 198 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. **Results of trials.**

45. The following sentences were passed by the courts of sessions:— **Punishments.**

Death	24
Transportation or penal servitude	132
Imprisonment	3,067
Fine or forfeiture	93
Whipping	5

In addition to these sentences, 315 persons were required to give security. Fines to the amount of Rs. 18,658 were imposed, while the total realisation of the year aggregated Rs. 6,832.

46. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of sessions was 45,614. Of these, 31,873 were examined and 13,741 discharged without examination. The amount paid to **Witnesses.**

witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,41,628 as compared with Rs. 1,32,799 in 1931.

Cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions.

47. The number of cases disposed of was 42 against 59 in the previous year. Altogether 74 persons were tried, of whom 49 were convicted and 25 acquitted.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—*High Court.*

Number of appeals.

48. At the opening of the year, 118 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 1,073 appeals were preferred and 938 were decided, leaving 253 pending at its close.

Results of appeals.

49. Six hundred and eleven appeals against sentences of courts of sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 556, modified in 35, and reversed in 17 instances, while 3 were remanded for retrial. Two hundred and ninety-nine appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 241, modified in 36 and reversed in 18 instances, while 4 were remanded for retrial. Two appeals against orders of acquittal were preferred by the Local Government, of which 1 was confirmed while another was modified.

II.—*Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.*

Sessions Courts.

50. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of sessions was 4,831 against 4,356 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,679 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,157 persons or 24·8 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 3,097 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,265 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 1,930 were acquitted. The cases of 230 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

Magistrates' courts.

51. In courts of magistrates 3,356 appeals were decided against 3,139 in the previous year. In the appeals decided 6,333 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 768 were rejected, and the sentences of 2,592 whose appeals were admitted were confirmed, making a total of 3,360 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 53 per cent. Of the remainder, 965 appellants or 15·2 per cent., obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on

them, 1,869 or 29·5 per cent. their total annulment, and the cases of 139 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1931, the results were less favourable to appellants.

General.

52. Compared with the figures of 1931, there was an increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. There was also an increase in the appellate work, but a decrease in revisional work, disposed of by magistrates, in the mufassal. In the courts of sessions there was a general increase in the outturn of criminal work. In the High Court there was a decrease in original and revisional work but an increase in appellate work disposed of. Forty-nine persons (19 in the Presidency town, 13 in the 24-Parganas, 11 in Khulna and 6 in Mymensingh) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 3 were acquitted and 46 convicted.

Receipts and charges.

53. After debiting as usual to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 39,14,186. Of this amount the sum of Rs. 22,76,154 was for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,38,407 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,54,873 for process-servers, Rs. 6,69,355 for other establishments, and Rs. 6,75,397 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 18,27,762. Of this amount, Rs. 8,90,888 were under fines, Rs. 1,34,171 under process-fees, Rs. 1,81,466 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 5,26,344 under court-fee stamps receipts other than the above, and Rs. 94,893 were miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1931, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 62,000 and the charges a decrease of over Rs. 1,71,000.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1932.]

Judicial Staff.

54. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1932 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and two the powers of a Munsif. One temporary Additional Judge of the High

Court was employed throughout the year. There were also 22 temporary Additional Judges, 20 temporary Additional Subordinate Judges, and 3 temporary Additional Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts. The Seventh Bench of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, remained vacant throughout the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

55. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1932 was 4,570 against 4,546 in the previous year. Of 2,582 suits instituted during 1932, 1,521 were for money or movable property, 229 were mortgage suits and 222 were for immovable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 3,93,14,416 as compared with Rs. 3,25,78,371 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

56. The number of suits decided in 1932 was 2,428. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 2,142. The number pending at the close of the year was more than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 170. There were 574 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 29 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates, letters of administration etc.

57. At the commencement of the year 69 applications for probates, letters of administration and succession certificates were pending, and 526 fresh applications were made during the year. Of these 519 were disposed of and 76 remained pending at its close.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

58. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 76 and 73 respectively.

Insolvency cases.

59. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 891 respectively, while the number instituted during the year was 224. Of the 1,278 cases for disposal 252 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 153 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 99 cases. There were also 2,589 applications of a miscellaneous character disposed of during the year.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

60. Five appeals to the Privy Council from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and one appeal was admitted during the year. Of these three were disposed of by the Privy Council and three remained pending at the close of the year.

61. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including under the head "Expenditure" the salaries of the Judges: **Financial results.**

Year.	Receipts.*	Receipts.†	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1930	23,77,513	9,24,709	6,54,710
1931	14,01,458	7,59,758	6,54,422
1932	23,02,460	7,96,028	5,71,849

* Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.
† Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

II.—Civil courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

62. The sitting of the Subordinate Judge, 3rd Court, as the Small Cause Court Judge at Munshiganj in the district of Dacca, was discontinued under the orders of Government, dated the 9th May 1932. **Small Cause Court, Munshiganj.**

63. The number of suits instituted in 1932 was 654,570, an increase of 66,443 on the figures of the previous year. **Original suits instituted.**

64. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Khulna, Faridpur and Dinajpur. The increase was most marked in Tippera, Mymensingh, Rangpur and 24-Parganas, and it occurred in all classes of suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (57,238), where the number of money suits (23,679) was the greatest in the province. **Local distribution.**

65. The number of suits disposed of was 652,111, an increase of 37,630 on the figures of 1931. Of the total number, 634,430 were disposed of by Munsifs, 10,773 by Subordinate Judges, 6,550 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 358 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase under all grades of courts except in the courts of Subordinate Judges. **Number of suits disposed of.**

66. Of the suits disposed of during the year, 59,715 were decided without trial, 443,354 *ex parte*, 35,161 on admission of claim, 58,389 on compromise, 55,013 after full trial and 479 on reference to arbitration. Of the 55,013 suits decided after full trial, 47,391 or 86·1 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, and 7,622 or 13·9 per cent. in favour of the defendants. **Results of suits decided.**

Applications for retrial.

67. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex parte* judgment on default preferred during the year was 13,660. Of these, 6,405 or 46·8 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by Munsiffs.

68. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 596,827 to 634,430, an increase of 37,603. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 3,094 against 2,528 in 1931. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 23·7 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by subordinate Judges.

69. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 10,773, a decrease of 508 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 5,728, and under the small Cause Court procedure 5,045, and of these 29·6 per cent. and 11·8 per cent. respectively were contested. The percentage of suits decided after full trial both under the ordinary and Small Cause Court procedure shows a decrease as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

70. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,550 original suits, of which 773 were decided after full trial or 3 less than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

71. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 168,137 against 157,392 in the previous year. Of the pending suits 11,538 had been pending for more than a year, 59,351 for more than six months, and 30,854 for more than three months, representing an increase in the arrears for three and six months respectively, and a decrease in that pending over one year. Of the suits pending over one year 8,511 were in the courts of Munsifs and 3,027 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 1,282 and 661 respectively as compared with 1931. About 60·2 per cent. of these suits were, however, pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous cases.

72. In addition to 112,051 cases instituted during the year there were 20,531 cases pending trial from the previous year, 841 were revised and 4,107 were received otherwise, making a total of 137,530 cases for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1932 against 118,333 in 1931. Of these, excluding transfers, 110,903 were disposed of; 122 being applications for probates and letters of administration were treated as suits on becoming contested, and 22,510 remained at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 52,979 were decided without trial, 31,879 *ex parte*, 1,408 on admission of claim, 10,432 on compromise, 14,187 after full trial and 18 on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases 710 were pending over a year, the 24-Parganas being responsible for the largest number (353).

73. The total number of insolvency petitions presented during the year was 2,908 against 2,580 in the previous year. Of these, 760 were dismissed, in 1,104 cases the petitioners were adjudged to be insolvent, in 452 cases the insolvents were discharged or died, and in 590 cases the petitions were annulled. Proceedings in insolvency under the Provincial Insolvency Act.

74. There were 999 union courts established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, in 21 of the districts in the Presidency. The receipts amounted to Rs. 2,02,154 and the expenditure to Rs. 58,570. During the year 138,392 suits were instituted for money or movable property, representing a total value of Rs. 44,60,483, and 22,949 suits remained pending at the close of the year. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 37,549, of which 4,356 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases from the decision of these courts was 550, of which 62 were dismissed or not prosecuted. In 186 cases the decision of the union courts was confirmed, in 28 cases it was modified, and in 123 cases it was reversed. Thirty-six cases were remanded for retrial and 107 remained pending at the close of the year. Union courts are reported to be appreciated by the public and to be affording some relief to Munsifs in the majority of the districts. Union courts.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

75. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1932 and the number pending at its close were 24,101, 24,351 and 4,629, respectively. The figures show decreases in institutions and disposals, respectively, and an increase in that of the pending file as compared with the previous year. Seventeen applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits, excepting those valued at Rs. 10, Rs. 50 and Rs. 2,000. The number of suits the value of which cannot be estimated in money was larger than in the previous year. Number of suits.

76. Of the suits disposed of, 752 were decided without trial, 9,595 *ex parte*, 5,542 on admission of claim, 5,178 on compromise, 3,223 after full trial and 71 on reference to arbitration. Of the 4,629 suits pending at the close of the year, 135 were over a year old, against 92 in 1931. Mode of disposal.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

77. One hundred and twenty appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year, and 81 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 106 were decided and 95 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 11 less than in 1931. On the Appellate Side 32 such appeals were filed during the year, and 15 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 21 were decided and 26 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the subordinate civil courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

78. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam:—

	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Revived and received by transfer during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.
First Appeals—					
From original decrees.	780	300	19	(a) 260	839
From original orders.	304	310	1	294	321
From the orders of Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	8	4	..	6	6
Second appeals—					
From appellate decrees.	4,506	2,500	8	(b) 2,347	4,667
From appellate orders ..	170	194	13	215	162
Total ..	5,768	3,308	41	3,122	5,995

(a) Including 35 will cases.
(b) Of these 1,368 were decided by a single Judge.

79. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:— Results of appeals.

	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Appeals from—						
Original decrees ..	26	88	..	9	40	..
Appellate decrees ..	328	757	..	86	319	..
Miscellaneous appeals	70	124	1	32	41	..

III.—Appellate courts subordinate to the High Court.

80. In addition to 10,194 appeals instituted during the year, there were 15,045 appeals pending trial from the previous year, and 12,749 were received otherwise, making a total of 37,988 appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1932 against 31,518 in 1931. The number of appeals instituted during the year was 10,194 against 13,509 in the previous year. Of these 4,767 were in rent suits, 4,066 in title suits, and 1,361 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease of 718, 2,184 and 413, respectively. Appeals for disposal.

81. The number of appeals decided was 14,611, and shows an increase of 371 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and a decrease of 2,234 in those decided by Subordinate Judges, as compared with the previous year. The decrease in disposal was spread over ten districts and was largest in Dacca (666) followed by Dinajpur (475), Mymensingh (469) and Jessore (431). Appeals disposed of.

Appeals pending.

82. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 10,892, and was less than that of 1931 by 4,153. The number of appeals over one year old fell from 4,016 to 3,396. Jessore was accountable for the largest number, viz., 515.

Results of appeals.

83. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 7,542 cases, or 51·6 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed, in 2,137 cases or 14·7 per cent. it was modified, and in 2,368 cases or 16·2 per cent. it was reversed. Six hundred and sixty-one cases or 4·5 per cent. were remanded, and 1,903 or 13 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are on the whole more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

84. During the year under review there was an increase in the number of original suits instituted in the High Court and a decrease in the number disposed of. In the Calcutta Small Cause Court there was a decrease both in institutions and in disposals. In the mufassal courts, on the other hand, more suits were instituted and more were disposed of than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court there was an increase in the number of appeals instituted and a decrease in the number disposed of. In the subordinate appellate courts both institutions and disposals showed a decrease.

Receipts and charges of civil courts.

85. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,85,01,541 showing an increase of Rs. 12,59,440, and the charges amounted to Rs. 78,93,722 showing a decrease of Rs. 4,58,109 on those of 1931. Including the amount realised on account of duty on probate, etc.,

	Rs.
In the High Court	31,63,583*
In other courts	2,12,247*
Total	33,75,830*

*The figures are for the financial year.

the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,06,07,820. If the above items are excluded the profit was Rs. 72,31,990.

86. Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.

	Rs.
In Stamps—	
Process fees	22,31,349
Other fees	1,54,57,760
In cash or special stamps—	
Other receipts	2,74,730
Copying and comparing fees	5,34,422
Fines	3,371
Total ..	1,85,01,542

Charges.

	Rs.
Salaries of Judicial officers	27,97,912
Establishment—	
Process-servers	9,60,209
Others	28,56,733
Copyists' fees	4,01,162
Contingencies and refunds	8,77,706
Total ..	78,93,722

87. There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "Copying and comparing fees," "Other receipts" and "Fines" under the head "Other fees," the increase amounting to more than Rs. 12,15,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads except "Contingencies and refunds," and was largest under the head "Salaries of Judicial Officers" where a saving of Rs. 2,84,000 was effected.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1932.]

88. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921 to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the Chief Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division being the Supreme Court. Administration of justice.

Criminal justice.

89. The number of offences reported during the year 1932 was 475, of which 262 were returned as true and 224 were brought to trial. Five hundred and sixty-nine persons were under trial, and of these 275 were acquitted or discharged and 221 convicted. In the cases ending in conviction 76 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months, while in one case the sentence was for transportation for life.

Civil justice.

90. Eight hundred and three civil suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 96,363-9-9. Of the 1,017 suits before the courts, all but 176 were disposed of.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1932.]

Population.

91. During the year 1932 the number of persons imprisoned after conviction was 43,695, as against 30,727 in 1931. The number remaining at the end of the year and the daily average were 16,245 and 17,643·33 as against 12,410 and 14,147·09 respectively in 1931. The marked increase in the jail population was due partly to the large number of arrests made in connection with the civil disobedience movement, partly to the increase of general criminality engendered by this movement, and in a lesser degree to the spread of terrorism. The most noticeable feature of the figures of civil disobedience convicts was the great increase in the number of women prisoners. The total of females convicts rose from 697 in 1931 to 1,300 in 1932, which is more than three times that of a normal year.

Civil disobedience prisoners.

92. The heavy influx of civil disobedience prisoners during the first six months of 1932 placed a great strain upon the resources of the Jail Department. The policy adopted in 1930 for the segregation of such convicts proved satisfactory, and was continued. The Hijli Additional Special Jail, the Dum Dum Special Jail, and the Dum Dum Additional Special Jail remained in commission throughout the year, and when these were found insufficient in accommodation a second additional special jail was opened at Dum Dum. The old sub-jail buildings at Hijli were treated at first as part of the additional special jail for the reception of female civil disobedience prisoners, but the latter were subsequently removed to a female jail that was opened at Berhampore, and the Hijli sub-jail buildings were then utilized for female détenus. The original special jails at Hijli and Berhampore continued to be used as camps for détenus, and the latter also served to accommodate the division III prisoners employed there as servants. The removal of civil disobedience prisoners from ordinary to special jails relieved

the former of considerable trouble. Civil disobedience convicts made no attempt to escape or to use violence, but they constantly tried to break the ordinary jail rules, and they were usually dirty and slovenly in their appearance and manner of working. Under orders of Government juvenile civil disobedience prisoners were prematurely released, and a number of adults were similarly released on their signing statements of apology and promises for future good behaviour.

Terrorist prisoners.

93. The increase in the number of terrorist convicts was also marked, and these prisoners were exceedingly troublesome and proved a source of great anxiety to Jail Superintendents. They consistently attempted to undermine discipline and to hold unauthorized communications with outside sympathizers, and they frequently threatened the jail staff with violence. Three terrorist prisoners actually succeeded in escaping from Midnapore Central Jail. One was recaptured during the year, and the other two in 1933. It was to free the jails of the province from the disturbing presence of these undesirables that deportation to the Andamans was decided upon by the Government of India, and during the year 58 such terrorist convicts were despatched from Bengal to Port Blair.

Accommodation.

94. Overcrowding in the jails continued throughout the year, and often rendered impossible the proper segregation of habitual from non-habitual prisoners, of convicts from under-trials, and of adults from adolescents. In order to relieve the congestion a jail delivery of ordinary prisoners was effected on the lines of the one held in 1931, and in all 1,446 convicts were released before the expiration of their sentences.

Long detention of undertrials and prevalence of short sentences.

95. The period of detention of under-trials continued to be excessive, and this was partly responsible for the overcrowding of under-trial wards. The periods of detention in sessions cases was usually more than twice that of magistracy cases, the total average in terms of days being 56·47 and 23·02 respectively. These figures were a slight improvement on those of the previous year, but the periods of detention are still too lengthy. Barisal district had the worst record in respect of sessions under-trials, and 24-Parganas in respect of the rest. The number of prisoners with sentences not exceeding one month was 9,166 as against 9,272 in 1931. This was about 3,000 more than the figure for an ordinary year. The imposition of such sentences serves no useful purpose, and the practice is to be deprecated as being harmful to jail administration.

Youthful offenders.

96. The number of convicts of less than 16 years of age admitted during the year was 369 as against 165 in 1931. The great increase in numbers was due almost entirely to the civil

disobedience movement. All children of 14 or under convicted of civil disobedience offences, and all children between 14 and 16 similarly convicted in certain specified districts, were released before the expiration of their sentences, the total figure for the year being 116.

Borstal School, Bankura.

97. The Borstal School at Bankura continued its useful work of reforming the youthful offender. At the beginning of 1932 there were 301 boys in the school and 58 were admitted during the year, 169 being discharged, and 190 remaining at the end of the year. Literary, technical, industrial, physical and religious training was given, and the Boy Scout troop was keen and popular. The After-care Association and its district branches continued to watch the subsequent careers of boys discharged from the school, and endeavoured to find work for them.

Jail earnings.

98. The total jail earnings again showed a decrease owing to the effects of the economic depression. In 1930 the earnings were Rs. 4,48,000. In 1931 they fell to Rs. 3,75,243. In 1932 they dropped to Rs. 3,12,567.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

99. The general health of prisoners was fairly good, and although the ratio per mille of the daily average of sick rose slightly from 35·1 to 41·34, the corresponding death rate fell from 11·5 to 10·52. The latter figure is the lowest on record with the exception of that for 1930, which was 9·3. In view of the greatly increased jail population and the overcrowding which resulted from it the figures disclose a satisfactory state of affairs, and they constitute a refutation of the wild and baseless allegations concerning the neglect and ill-treatment of prisoners in which the extremist sections of the press indulged from time to time.

Tornado at Mymensingh.

100. On 9th May 1932 a tornado struck the jail at Mymensingh, causing serious damage to the walls and buildings and considerable loss of life among the prisoners and the staff. The northern and western outer walls and several buildings were completely demolished, and the corrugated roofs of other structures were torn off and blown a considerable distance. In all 31 persons were killed, of whom 20 were convicts, 2 were under-trials, 5 were warders, 3 were outsiders, and 1 was a constable. The injured numbered 100, of whom 50 warders and 30 prisoners were seriously hurt. In the confusion a number prisoners escaped, but all except 30 either surrendered or were subsequently recaptured.

Attempted murder of Mr. Luke.

101. Apparently on account of his firm handling of the prisoners in the Rajshahi Central Jail a dastardly attempt was made by terrorists on 18th November to assassinate Mr. Charles Luke, the Superintendent, while he was driving with his wife and daughter. A bicycle was thrown in front of his motor-car, and

several shots were fired at him. One of the assailants was captured and was transported for 7 years. The others escaped. Mr. Luke was seriously injured in the mouth and lower jaw, but has fortunately recovered, and is to be congratulated on his providential escape.

General.

102. Throughout the year the permanent staffs of all jails underwent a very considerable strain, and performed their duties amid unusual difficulties. It was satisfactory, therefore, that there was no deterioration in the standard of organization and administration, and the department as a whole deserves congratulation for the manner in which it met and overcame a series of formidable obstacles.

Registration.

Progress and statistics.

103. There were 405 offices working at the close of the year 1932 against 415 at the end of the year 1931. Seven permanent offices and three experimental offices were closed during the year. The total income of the Registration Department decreased from Rs. 19,53,906 in 1931 to Rs. 18,69,941 in 1932, i.e., by 4·3 per cent. The decrease in income was proportionately much larger than the decrease in the volume of registration. This was due to the increasing depreciation in the value of landed property. The total expenditure also decreased from Rs. 17,55,305 in 1931 to Rs. 16,32,303 in 1932, i.e., by 7 per cent. The decrease was due partly to the decrease in the volume of registration work, and partly to the observance of strict economy and to the 10 per cent. cut in pay. The total number of transactions registered under the Indian Registration Act decreased from 954,349 in 1931 to 930,870 in 1932. This represents a fall of 2·4 per cent. only, as against a corresponding fall of 24·4 per cent. in 1931. The economic depression and the low price of jute were the causes of this decrease. It is noticeable on the other hand that the rate of decrease showed a great improvement on that of the previous year.

Working of the Special Marriage Act, III of 1872.

104. Fifty marriages were registered during 1932 as against 75 in 1931. Of these 43 were registered in Calcutta, 5 in Dacca and one each in Howrah and Midnapore. There were 41 Marriage Registrars (including 28 *ex-officio* Registrars) against 42 Marriage Registrars in the previous year. Of these 41 Marriage Registrars only 8 registered marriages in the course of the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and the Kazis' Act.

105. Bengal Act I of 1876 and the Kazis' Act XII of 1880 were in force in the whole of the Presidency. Little use was made of the Kazis' Act, as in most districts the services of village Mullahs and family priests in performing marriages are preferred

to those of Kazis appointed under the Act. Six new offices were opened during the year, so that there were 386 offices at the end of the year 1932 against 380 at the end of 1931. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year was 58,545 against 53,068 in 1931, showing an increase of 10·3 per cent. The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,26,766-1 against Rs. 1,17,059-5 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 8·29 per cent. The increase both in the number of registrations and in the receipts is due mainly to the growing popularity of the Muhammadan Registration Act and also to the increase in the number of registration offices. The bill providing for abolition of the system of Nazarana passed into law, and rules prescribing an *ad valorem* scale of fees under the Act, as amended, have been framed. The question of empowering the Muhammadan Registrars to register the class of divorce known as "Talaq-i-Bilyad" is now under consideration.

CHAPTER IV.—LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

For—

Character of land tenures and system of surveys and settlement,

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II.]

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Adminstration of Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

106. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,594 against 101,443 last year. Of these 93,968 were permanently-settled estates, 4,446 temporarily-settled estates (in which term is included the estates of recusant proprietors let out in farm and Government estates let out in farm), and 3,180 estates were under direct management of Government. The current demand was Rs. 3,05,28,959 against Rs. 3,03,36,424 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 1,92,535 was due to the resettlement of temporarily-settled estates on the termination of the existing lease, to the settlement of newly accreted lands, to the creation of new diara estates, and to the progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand including arrears of Rs. 87,96,221 was Rs. 3,93,25,180, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,76,26,513, being 70·25 per cent. of the total and 90·49 per cent. of the current demand against Rs. 2,75,62,854 being 75·91 and 90;86 per cent. respectively in the previous year. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 1,15,91,100 or 29·47 per cent. of the total demand. Total collection.

107. The total collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 11·76 lakhs against Rs. 9·59 lakhs in the previous year. Miscellaneous revenue.

108. The total number of holdings of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under report was 246 against 259 of the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed during the year was Rs. 290, and the total price realised was Rs. 8,446. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 327 and Rs. 9,653 respectively. Redemption of land revenue.

109. Defaults and sales during the year numbered 26,055 and 1,344 respectively, as against 19,920 and 1,177 respectively in Coercive measures: (a) Sale Law.

preceding year. The number exempted under section 18 including those for petty arrears was 13,858 or 90·14 per cent. of the total number advertised for sale. This indicates the leniency with which the Sunset Law was administered.

(b) Certificates.

110. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year other than those for cesses was 155,280 as against 140,156 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 51·54 against 47·69 in the previous year. In the majority of cases payment was made on issue of notices or on attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 12,843 cases or 9·4 per cent. of the total number disposed of (136,529) during the year under review.

Condition of the people.

Condition of the agricultural population.

111. During the year under report the weather conditions were, on the whole, favourable and the outturn of crops was satisfactory, but in April and May severe cyclones visited parts of the Manikganj subdivision in Dacca and of the Patuakhali subdivision in Bakarganj, while tornadoes of great violence passed over several villages in the Sadar and Bagerhat subdivisions of Khulna and in the Sadar subdivision of Faridpur, as well as over Mymensingh town and 8 adjacent villages. Early in July there was a heavy flood in Kurigram and Gaibandha subdivisions in Rangpur, while at the end of the month the Brahmaputra rose and flooded the pali area of the district of Bogra and caused considerable damage to the *aus* and jute crops. Crops were also injured to some extent either by drought, untimely rainfall, hailstorms or insect pests in Burdwan, Bankura, Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri and in the Darjeeling Terai. The failure of *bhadoi* crops caused severe distress in some areas in the Noakhali district. Prompt and adequate measures were taken to relieve the distress in the affected areas by test relief works opened by the district boards concerned, by granting gratuitous relief, and by advancing land improvement and agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 3,22,321. Owing to the general depression in trade the prices of agricultural produce were even lower than in the preceding year. The abnormal fall in the price of jute accentuated the difficulties of the cultivators. The organised propaganda for the restriction of jute met with partial success. The unsatisfactory economic condition of the agricultural population reacted on the land owning, money-lending, trading and professional classes. The circulation of money being greatly restricted, mahajans, local banks and loan offices had to contract their operations, and loans were not procurable even at a high rate of interest, while land-owners found

great difficulty in making collections. The fall in the value of land continued and unemployment among educated youths was more widespread than ever.

112. General economic conditions continued to be unsatisfactory. The depression in the Burdwan coal industry showed no signs of improvement, and the number of operatives in the jute mills along the Hooghly decreased by more than 10,000. The number of cotton mills on the other hand increased by one, and 1,000 more operatives were employed as a result of the increased number of looms and spindles at work. The heavy duties placed on foreign sugar led to the appearance of a number of sugar factories in the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions. The depression in the tea industry continued. Cultivation with steel ploughs was continued in Nadia district with fair results. Generally speaking there was no shortage of food but a great shortage of money and a general depression in all forms of trade and industry. General economic conditions.

113. Public health was on the whole good. Malaria, kala-azar, cholera and small-pox made their usual visitations, but did not assume serious proportions except in a few places. The rural water-supply schemes made good progress. The establishment of union boards and the constant visits paid to rural areas by circle officers and sanitary inspectors helped to popularize improved methods of sanitation amongst the villagers. The anti-malarial societies and health associations formed in many districts rendered substantial help to the public. Public health.

Other Revenue Works.

114. The number of proprietary interests recorded in the land registration registers was 1,072,071 at the beginning of the year under report as against 1,074,461 at its close. Land registration.

115. There were 214 partition cases pending at the close of the preceding year, and 47 cases were instituted during the year under report. Of the 261 cases for disposal, 35 cases were disposed of. In the district of Mymensingh a special officer was employed on partition work throughout the year. Estates partition funds exist in the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca. Partition.

116. The total area acquired was 1,315·8138 acres at a total cost of Rs. 31,02,029, as against 1,621·6909 acres at Rs. 16,24,507 in the previous year. Of the total area acquired 1,147·9937 acres were for the purposes of Government, including State railways and Companies' railways provided with land free of cost by Government, and 167·8201 acres was for all other purposes, as compared with 1,558·7823 and 62·9086 acres respectively in the previous year. Land acquisition.

Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

117. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,41,073, while Rs. 1,500 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 71,848 and Rs. 11,850 respectively, of which Rs. 29,545 and Rs. 5,928 were collected. The outstanding balance of agricultural loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 26,81,606 and Rs. 3,20,821 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 24,48,077 and Rs. 1,96,696 respectively, and Rs. 13,38,433 and Rs. 1,32,416 were realised.

Waste Lands.

118. No new lease of waste lands was granted in the districts of Darjeeling, Chittagong, Khulna and the 24-Parganas during the year under report. In Jalpaiguri an area of 245·51 acres was settled under 24 leases at the maximum revenue of Rs. 345. The colonization of the Tangagiri Chawk in Bakarganj could not be undertaken owing to financial stringency. An area of 4·63 square miles not fit for raiyatwari settlement was settled under gorekati lease, which yielded a revenue of Rs. 1,745. A grazing fee of Rs. 2,597 was derived from an accretion to Tangagiri Chawk, while the parent estates yielded Rs. 3,394 from forest collection. In connection with the special scheme of raiyatwari settlement of char lands in South Bhola in Bakarganj, an area of 3,336·35 acres was settled during the year under report. The area to be settled has been found by actual measurement to be 47,504 acres, against 35,010 acres originally estimated. Of these the survey and settlement of 30,184 acres have been completed. In Noakhali the raiyatwari settlement of 4,726 acres of char lands was concluded at a total rent of Rs. 14,769. The salami realised in connection with these settlements amounted to Rs. 14,800. In addition to this an approximate area of 8,984 acres of land in different chars has been taken up for raiyatwari settlement. In Faridpur alluvial formations and town khas mahal land consisting of an area of 1,669·76 acres were settled during the year. The total assessment on account of rent and salami comes to Rs. 543 and Rs. 13,667, respectively. The settlement of Kantapukur Char Block II and Rupnarayan Bahir Char in Howrah with an area of 1,439 bighas was concluded. In Nadia 32·33 acres of unassessed char jhohow mahal, tauzi No. 2016, were settled for 6 years with retrospective effect from the 1st April 1931. As a result of the survey of the char lands in Pabna in the bed of the river Ichamati referred to in last year's report, about 5,000 acres are reported to be available for settlement this

year. A big island char in diara Padma was taken possession of on behalf of Government. The area reformed was about 5,000 bighas, most of which was sandy, and only about 50 bighas which were fit for cultivation were settled at a rent of Rs. 50 per annum. In Bogra 7·25 acres of land were settled at a rental of Rs. 28-5.

Government Estates.

Number and management

119. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals who have refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government, and excluding numerous small holdings in Calcutta each of which is technically an "estate," as well as the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings Estate in the 24-Parganas district, was 3,168 with a total annual demand of Rs. 63,40,593 against 3,046 estates with an aggregate demand of Rs. 61,53,118 in the preceding year. The results of the agricultural demonstrations held in several districts were satisfactory. In Faridpur the fourth batch of 5 *bhadralog* youths were, on the completion of their training in the Faridpur Agricultural Farm, given lands and agricultural loans. In Bakarganj 20 *bhadralog* colonists have been offered land in char Fasson on condition that they build houses and live there with their families. A few of them are living there with their families. In Noakhali 1,400 acres of char lands have gradually been settled with 5 batches of educated *bhadralog* young men under the co-operative and the *bhadralog* schemes. It is unfortunate that the *bhadralog* scheme is not proving very successful on account of the low price of paddy and want of keenness on the part of the members. There were 5,055 schools in Government estates in the province with 178,179 pupils during the year against 4,642 and 156,023 respectively in the previous year, showing an increase in the number both of schools and pupils.

Grant for management and improvement.

120. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates a sum of Rs. 5,33,602 or 8·3 per cent. of current demand was spent on management, and Rs. 1,12,709 or 1·77 per cent. of current demand on improvements, against 8·9 per cent. and 2·37 per cent. respectively during the previous year. Of the Rs. 1,12,709 spent on improvements, Rs. 76,932 was expended on drainage and irrigation and embankments, Rs. 10,503 on tanks and wells, and Rs. 22,519 on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements including repairs to roads and bridges, the clearing of jungle, and agricultural experiments in the province. A sum of Rs. 2,755 was also spent on the improvement of *hats* and markets in the Presidency, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions during the year under review.

Colonisation of the Sundarbans. 121. Of the 178 square miles comprised in 22 villages covered by the Bakarganj colonization scheme, which was in its 26th year of progress, Tangagiri Chawk with an area of 7·249 acres alone remained to be colonised. The work could not be taken up during the year under review owing to financial stringency. The colonisation of the 24-Parganas, which was in its 18th year, made fair progress. The total sum advanced by Government for reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sunderbans, and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report, were Rs. 27,73,276 and Rs. 34,74,574 respectively. Thus after paying its way the property has yielded a net profit of Rs. 7,01,298. The general health of the people in the Bakarganj Sunderbans area was satisfactory, but there has been considerable deterioration in their material condition. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans the health of the colonists was generally good except in the neighbourhood of Saugor island, where cholera broke out.

Wards and attached Estates.

Number of estates. 122. At the beginning of the year under report the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 107. Six new estates were brought under the charge of the Court and no estate was released from its management during the year. Thus at the close of the year there were 113 estates under the charge of the Court.

Collection of rent and cesses. 123. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court was Rs. 4,18,22,527 (including an arrear of Rs. 2,51,88,100), of which Rs. 1,42,58,812 or 34 per cent. was collected during the year as against 35·1 per cent. in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded only in 3 small estates out of 110. The poor results were mainly due to the economic depression and the slump in the price of jute, paddy, and other agricultural produce.

Balance of rent and cesses due to estates. 124. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 2,63,29,933, which represented 158·3 per cent. on the current demand as against 152·8 per cent. in the preceding year. The heavy balances were attributable to the economic distress which prevailed throughout the year.

Debts of estates. 125. The total amount of ascertained debts of the Court of Wards estates in the Presidency at the close of the year stood at Rs. 2,86,65,578 against Rs. 2,73,48,660 in the preceding year. The increase is due to the assumption of charge of some new estates with heavy debts, to the addition of unpaid interest, and

to the fact that fresh debts had to be incurred in certain cases owing to poor collections. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 10,75,935 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 15,21,108, as compared with Rs. 12,10,393 and Rs. 14,18,405 respectively in the previous year.

126. The percentage of the cost of management of the Wards estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand showed a slight reduction from 9·5 to 9·4. The standard aimed at is 10 per cent. **Management charges.**

127. In solvent estates the standards fixed for minimum expenditure on education and works of improvement are 1 and 3 per cent. respectively on current and cess demand. Owing to poor collections it was not possible during the year under review to approach these standards except in very few cases. The total sum spent during the year under these heads was Rs. 5,79,935 as against Rs. 5,00,412 in the preceding year. **Improvements.**

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

128. The districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as well as the town of Calcutta, continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Western Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a modified extent. The Act operated fully in the rest of the province. **Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.**

129. As in previous years very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act when landlords did not give proper rent receipts. **Measures to compel the issue of rent receipts.**

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1932-33.]

130. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are administered under the Special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by *jhuming*. One hundred and ninety-four amalnamas of new settlements covering an approximate area of 384·34 acres were issued during the year, against 539 covering 1,216·59 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,55,656 against Rs. 1,53,899 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 48½ per cent. of the total demand including arrears for previous year. **Land revenue.**

Forest and other revenue.

131. The forest revenue decreased from Rs. 1,18,051 in the preceding year to Rs. 89,472. This does not include the revenue derived from the portion of the Hill Tracts which lies in the Chittagong Forest Division. Other revenues, including the revenue from the *jhum* tax, amounted to Rs. 58,496 against Rs. 54,877 in the preceding year.

Condition of the people.

132. Rainfall was normal during the year and the weather was favourable to all kinds of crops. The harvest was an abundant one, but the beneficial effect of this was minimized by the inability of the cultivators to dispose of their produce profitably owing to the fall in prices. The price of unginned cotton was between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 per maund, while that of paddy varied from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per 100 adis. Public health was generally satisfactory. The district was not visited by any serious epidemic during the year. There were two attacks of cholera resulting in one death, one attack of small-pox which did not prove fatal to any one, and 17 attacks of influenza resulting in 11 deaths. Malaria prevailed generally, but it did not assume a serious form. Cattle disease prevailed throughout the year and destroyed a large number of animals. Due to the fall in prices of agricultural produce and to loss of cattle the economic condition of the people was on the whole unsatisfactory.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1932.]

Outturn of the year.

133. The main traverse programme consisted of 848 square miles of post-pointing traverse in 9 police-stations in the district of Rangpur. The 16 inches rectifications supplied by the Indian Air Survey and Transport Co., Ltd., were found to be very good, each photo showing field boundaries distinctly, while the direct distances on check were found to agree. Besides the above area a further area of 29 square miles along the Mahananda River and running through the districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur was traversed by the ordinary method. Traverse survey was also done over a scattered area of 21 square miles in 4 police-stations of Pabna, 113 square miles in 4 police-stations of Noakhali, 10 square miles of tea grants in 4 police-stations of Jalpaiguri, 43 square miles in 11 police-stations of Dacca, 7 square miles in police-station Chandpur of Tippera, 6·3 square miles in one village of Bakarganj, and in a portion of the Karmi Estate in connection with the partition proceedings in respect of an area of 9 square miles in police-station Phulbazar in the district of Darjeeling.

Besides these, sub-traverse was done in 4 villages of police-station Lakshmipur of Noakhali district, and traverse in one village in police-station Ramgati of the same district and 2 villages of police-station Daulatpur in the district of Dacca.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1932.]

General.

134. The total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed is 55,461 square miles, which represents about 85 per cent. of the area to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies.

Major operations.

135. Major settlement operations were in progress in 8 districts. The operations in Burdwan-Hooghly, Malda and Rangpur were in full swing, and those in Murshidabad-Birbhum, Chittagong and 24-Parganas were in their closing stage.

Murshidabad-Birbhum settlement.

136. The operations in these 2 districts were finally closed on 31st March 1932. The programme of work consisted of the disposal of the pending case work, the recovery of the arrear survey and settlement cost, and the making over of records. The number of cases filed in the year was 188 under section 105, 41 under section 106, and 150 under section 115B of the Bengal Tenancy Act, of which 108, 34 and 131 respectively were disposed of and the balance of the undecided cases was made over to the Collector for disposal by his ordinary staff. Rupees 87,483-12-9 was recovered during the last six months of the year under report, and the balance of the demand consisted of Rs. 17,455-5 under certificate and Rs. 30,872-11 under petty demands below Rs. 2. The demands below Rs. 2 were remitted, and it was arranged that the Collector would make further attempts to realize the demands between Rs. 2 and Rs. 5. All records and maps were made over to the Collector and other officers according to the rules.

Chittagong settlement.

137. This settlement was at its closing stage; and the programme consisted mainly of pending case work, recovery, and miscellaneous work incidental to the closing of an operation, such as the making over of records to the Collectorate and Subdivisional Offices. The total number of cases dealt with during the year was 14,407 under section 105, 365 under section 106, and 998 cases under section 115B of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The year's programme for recovery of survey and settlement cost was Rs. 47,403, and the actual realization was Rs. 30,439, out of which Rs. 13,960 was received by voluntary payments while Rs. 16,579 was realised by certificates. At the close of the year 4,851 certificates covering a sum of Rs. 9,639 remained pending

for realisation by the Collector of the district. Of this sum Rs. 6,334 represented dues from landlords. The miscellaneous pending work was also completed during the year.

24-Parganas settlement.

138. The programme of work for this settlement consisted of case work, diara and jamabandi, computation and recovery of survey and settlement costs, statistics, final mapping, topographical maps, and making over of records. In addition to 5,093 cases under section 105 and 1,400 under section 106 pending at the end of last year new institutions during the year under report were 6,586 tenancies under section 105, and 2,954 cases under section 106. Of these 8,398 tenancies under section 105 and 3,444 cases under section 106 were disposed of, leaving the balance for disposal in the succeeding year. Two diara proceedings drawn up in the previous year and 6 more drawn up during the year under report for resumption of the surplus alluvial accretions on the river Hooghly were completed. Most of the accretions were being used for non-agricultural purposes and were found in possession of mill companies and owners of brick-fields. As the accretions were very valuable great opposition against resumption was expected, but the proceedings were successfully carried through, the riparian proprietors accepting the settlements at 60 per cent. of the assets. As a result of these 8 proceedings an amount of Rs. 4,455-5 was secured as additional revenue. In the preceding year Government declared its policy in regard to the Sundarbans estates held under the Grant Rules of 1879, and the revenue of the estates previously concluded had to be revised. Government orders regarding the 1,853 estates were received during the year under report, and accordingly the revenue of 20 estates held under the rules of 1853, which had been resettled, had also to be revised, and the total revised revenue decreased from Rs. 1,40,657 to Rs. 89,990. As a result of the revision of 22 Government estates, 20 estates under the rules of 1853, 22 estates under the rules of 1879 and 2 temporarily-settled estates an increase in revenue of Rs. 1,66,934-15 has been secured. The total recovery of survey and settlement cost amounted to Rs. 4,92,077 during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 83,654 still to be recovered. The printing of records and maps were completed, and the making over of records to the Collector and the Subdivisional Officers and Munsifs was in progress.

Burdwan Hooghly.

139. The programme of this settlement consisted of:—(1) cadastral survey of 420 square miles, (2) preliminary record writing, (3) attestation, (4) disposal of objections, (5) case work, (6) recovery and (7) diara and jamabandi. The cadastral programme was completed before the Pujas. Only 2 square miles of survey and 8 square miles of khanapuri and bujharat could not be finished, the area being wholly municipal. The attestation

programme of 593 square miles was also completed in time. The total number of objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, was 25,381, out of which 24,466 were disposed of and 915 left pending owing to the sudden death of one Assistant Settlement Officer. Final janch of 183 square miles, which remained pending at the end of the last year, and of 360 square miles of the year's programme was completed. Twelve presses worked throughout the year and printed 339,861 interests of this settlement and 49,452 interests of 24-Parganas. Of a total computed demand of Rs. 6,00,277 a sum of Rs. 4,98,307 was recovered during the year. Only one case work officer worked after May 1932, and 4,509 tenancies out of 11,074 filed under section 105 and 122 cases out of 430 under section 106 were disposed of. The work of resumption on the foreshore of the Hooghly River, although found very difficult and intricate, progressed favourably and it is expected that the operations will augment the Government revenue considerably.

140. The work done in the year under report consisted of attestation, disposal of objections and boundary disputes, computation and recovery of survey and settlement cost, printing of records, diara and jamabandi, and final mapping. The attestation of the draft records of 788 square miles was completed in time. The total number of mokarari claims raised was 10,823, of which 6,734 were allowed, and of a total of 4,118 rent-free claims the number allowed was 1,352. The number of rent disputes was 4,144, and other disputes 223. The total number of objections disposed of during the year was 10,952, of which 4,972 were allowed and 5,980 disallowed. Boundary disputes were very numerous and as many as 487 had to be decided during attestation. Six presses worked during the year, and 172,801 interests of A block were printed. The total computed demand for the year was Rs. 1,47,471-13, of which Rs. 74,492-15 was realised. Final mapping was also well ahead of the programme. **Malda settlement.**

141. It was the first year of the survey and settlement operations in this district. The total area of the block taken up for survey consisted of 813·45 square miles, of which 110·05 square miles were surveyed by the ordinary method and 703·40 square miles by the aerophoto survey method. The photographs stood the test of scrutiny in bujharat very well, and were clearer than those in the second block of Malda. This system of survey from air photographs is rapidly improving, and the new method of rectification by independent lines has proved completely satisfactory as well as economical. The total number of plots came to a little over 12 lakhs. This number was beyond the expectation of the Settlement Officer, necessitating the employment of 35 Sadar amins to complete bujharat by the middle of June. There **Rangpur settlement.**

were 17 boundary dispute cases bordering on Cooch-Behar pending for decision by a Boundary Commission which Government have been moved to appoint. The boundary dispute between the Estates of Kasimbazar and Gouripore on the boundary of this district was compromised. The relation between landlords and tenants was found to be generally cordial. Illegal enhancements have been found in almost all big estates. The existing rents will be ratified under section 109 (*c*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Abwabs are realized as a general rule by most landlords in varying degrees. Four resumption cases under Regulation II of 1819 were taken up during the year. These were against invalid rent-free tenures, and one was a test case in respect of *petbhata khamar* lands held by the Kakina Raj Estates.

Minor operations. 142. Minor operations were carried on during the year in 12 districts, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Pabna, Rajshahi, Bogra, Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Tippera, Noakhali, Burdwan and Khulna. In Bakarganj the revised programme consisted of the resettlement of 618 estates, of which 594 estates were completed up-to-date securing an increase in revenue of Rs. 2,60,336 over the existing revenue of Rs. 8,72,252. In Faridpur the total number of estates under resettlement was 290, out of which 254 were completed. As a result of the revision an increase in revenue of Rs. 23,410 was secured, and it is expected that the total increase of revenue from the 290 estates will be over Rs. 50,000. In Noakhali and Tippera an increase in revenue of Rs. 50,614 and Rs. 21,607 respectively was secured as a result of resettlement of 46 estates in the former district and and 150 estates in the latter, while in Khulna the increase in revenue amounted to Rs. 42,506 from the 20 estates which have been resettled.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

143. The total revenue for the year 1932-33 from central heads amounted to Rs. 21,80,55,000 against the actuals of Rs. 21,22,09,000 in 1931-32 as shown in the statement below. The increase as compared with the last year's actuals occurred chiefly under the head "Customs" and "Salt", due mainly to the levy of an all round surcharge at 25 per cent. in the rates of duty on imported articles from the 30th September 1931, the full effect of which was apparent in 1932-33. The increase would have been larger but for the slight fall in revenue under the heads "Taxes on Income", owing chiefly to the continuance of the general depression in trade in the year under report, and under "Civil Works" due to smaller collection of rents from Government buildings. Receipts.

Statement of Receipts.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1931-32.	Actuals, 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.
I—Customs	13,74,12	14,32,08
II—Taxes on income	4,58,75	4,29,80
III—Salt	2,54,92	2,75,16
X—Payments from Indian States	68	68
XVI—Interest	10,48	10,20
XVII—Administration of justice	..	..
XX—Ports and pilotage	16,95	17,21
XXII—Public Health	..	22
XXVI—Miscellaneous departments	84	1,19
XXVII—Currency	10	10
XXX—Civil works	2,86	1,09
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation ..	1,67	1,91
XXXV—Miscellaneous	72	85
Total ..	21,22,09	21,80,55

144. The total expenditure under central heads during the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,40,66,000 against the actuals of Rs. 1,38,28,000 in the previous year as shown in the statement below. The bulk of the increase was under the following heads:— (1) "20—Interest on other obligations," due to larger payment Expenditure.

of interest on General Provident Fund; (2) "45—Superannuation allowances and pensions," due to increase in the number of pensioners; (3) "47—Miscellaneous," owing to the payment to the Government of Bengal in adjustment of arrear leave salaries originally wrongly debited to this Government; and (4) "51—A.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments," due to the payment to the Government of Bengal in adjustment of pensionary charges of the pilot and non-pilot establishment of the Bengal Pilot Service wrongly debited to this Government in the years 1928-29 and 1929-30. Savings, however, occurred under most of the other heads due mainly to the application of the 10 per cent. emergent cut in salaries, to retrenchments in expenditure and to the strict exercise of economy. The expenditure on census work was also smaller in the year under report than in the previous year.

Statement of Expenditure.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals. 1931-32.	Actuals. 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.
1—Customs	22,35	18,63
2—Taxes on income	11,19	11,60
3—Salt	2,92	2,89
19—Interest on ordinary debt	17,26	17,22
20—Interest on other obligations	19,90	22,18
22—General administration	20	19
23—Audit	8,76	8,05
24—Administration of justice	38	34
26—Police	97	95
27—Ports and pilotage	15,55	11,99
28—Ecclesiastical	1,83	1,60
29—Political	50	87
33—Public Health	57	93
37—Miscellaneous departments	3,83	93
41—Civil Works	7,63	7,11
44—Territorial and political pensions	6,49	6,37
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions	17,42	20,72
46—Stationery and printing	6	1
47—Miscellaneous	9	4,67
51A—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments	..	2,14
52—Extraordinary charges	14	97
61—Payments to retrenched personal	24	30
Total ..	1,38,28	1,40,66

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1932-33.]

145. The salt credit system was abolished in March 1932, but a few merchants with outstanding balances in their favour were permitted to exhaust their credit within the subsequent three months, i.e., to the end of June 1932. There was no duty outstanding for adjustment at the end of the year under report, except a sum of Rs. 20,968 for which a decree of Rs. 20,930 was granted by the Calcutta High Court against one of the merchants. Salt credit system.

146. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 15,625,044 maunds as compared with 13,509,118 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 15·66 per cent. Of this, the imports into Calcutta and Chittagong were 14,301,236 and 1,323,808 maunds respectively during the year, representing 91·53 and 8·47 per cent. of the total quantity imported against 94·57 and 5·43 per cent. in the previous year. Imports.

147. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 13,764,521 maunds against 15,156,867 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was annas three less than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 62 against Rs. 63 in the previous year, while that of Port Said salt in Chittagong was Rs. 58 against Rs. 56. Consumption and prices.

Income-tax.

148. The fiscal year 1931-32, on the income of which the results of taxation for the year under review depended, was even worse than the year 1930-31. Foreign trade was disorganised by the abandonment of the gold standard and resulting uncertainties of exchange. The sea-borne trade of Bengal, both exports and imports, slumped to a point below even the pre-war level. Jute, which largely contributed in former years to the income-tax revenue in Bengal, passed through another year of depression. The export of tea, another important trade item of this Province, was marked by a sharp decline. Prices of all primary produce fell, as throughout the world, but the boycott of foreign piece-goods relaxed somewhat and the tobacco trade improved. Income from brokerage, dividends, managing agency commissions and salaries likewise showed no improvement as compared with the Review of the year.

previous year. Collieries, ironworks, potteries, etc., all suffered. In the mufassal the money-lenders as a class were severely hit, as the agriculturists had no cash. Land became almost unsaleable, and collections of the mahajans dwindled seriously. The disastrous effect on the revenue would have been much more apparent but for the enhanced rates of taxation.

Assessed income.

149. The assessed income in the year under review was Rs. 29,91,83,751 against Rs. 34,65,05,476 (amended figure) of the previous year. As the basic figure of 1920-21 revised up to 31st March 1933 was Rs. 62,33 crores, the Local Government did not derive any benefit from Devolution Rule 15.

Collection.

150. The continuance of the "Summary procedure" for assessment of the newly taxed grade of incomes (1,000—2,000), and the enhancement of the surcharge rate from one-eighth to one-quarter, originally introduced by the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act 1931, brought in a revenue of Rs. 10,72,678 and Rs. 82,76,465 in 1932-33 as compared with Rs. 3,33,126 and 47,94,138 respectively in 1931-32. The total net collections from all the sources of income in the year under report were Rs. 2,92,74,463 in income-tax and Rs. 1,35,77,071 in super-tax as compared with Rs. 2,81,26,055 and Rs. 1,67,95,875 respectively in the previous year. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Provincial Revenue and Finance.

General.

151. It was anticipated that the year 1932-33 would open with a balance of Rs. 21,48,000 and the revenue collections of the year would amount to Rs. 10,03,75,000. Against the abovementioned total receipts of Rs. 10,25,23,000 the minimum expenditure for carrying on administration during the year was estimated at Rs. 11,72,74,000. It was therefore estimated that Rs. 1,59,51,000 would have to be borrowed to make ends meet and to leave a balance of Rs. 12,00,000, which represented the obligatory minimum balance of the Famine Insurance Fund. The actual opening balance of 1932-33 of Rs. 13,56,000, however, fell short of anticipation by Rs. 7,92,000, but the actual revenue collections amounting to Rs. 10,10,54,000 were better by Rs. 6,79,000 than the estimated receipts. As the actual expenditure amounting to Rs. 11,11,34,000 during the year also showed a saving of Rs. 61,40,000 as compared with the sanctioned estimate, only Rs. 1,00,02,000 had actually to be borrowed during the year.

This enabled the accounts of the year 1932-33 to be closed with a balance of Rs. 12,78,000. The position is shown below:—

	Sanctioned estimate, 1932-33.	Actuals, 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	21,48,000	13,56,000
Receipts on revenue account	9,52,84,000	9,35,65,000
Receipts on capital accounts	50,91,000	74,89,000
Loan from Provincial Loans Fund to meet deficit ..	1,59,51,000	1,00,02,000
Total ..	11,84,74,000	11,24,12,000
Expenditure on revenue account	11,12,20,000	10,66,08,000
Expenditure on capital account	60,54,000	45,26,000
Total expenditure ..	11,72,74,000	11,11,34,000
Closing balance ..	12,00,000	12,78,000

152. As the actual revenue and expenditure in 1931-32 fell short of the revised estimate by Rs. 25,86,000 and Rs. 17,94,000 respectively, the closing balance of 1931-32 was lower by Rs. 7,92,000 than was estimated. The budget estimate of receipts for 1932-33 generally followed the actual receipts of 1931-32. The receipts in 1932-33 however amounted to Rs. 10,10,54,000 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 10,03,75,000 excluding the estimate of loans to meet deficits. A windfall of 30 lakhs under Stamps, and heavier collections under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act partly accounted for the increased receipts. Larger receipts from the Central Road Development Fund, better recoveries on account of loans to local bodies and agriculturists, and recoveries of pensionary charges of the pilot and non-pilot establishment of the Bengal Pilot Service in adjustment of the accounts which were originally wrongly debited to the Bengal Government, also contributed towards the increases in revenue during the year under review. The increase would have been larger but for the considerable fall in revenue under the head "Land revenue," due chiefly to smaller recoveries on account of survey and settlement charges and to smaller miscellaneous land revenue receipts. The large fall in revenue under the head "Excise," and smaller falls under most of the other heads of revenue, were mainly due to the world-wide depression in trade and the consequent decrease in the purchasing power of the people. Receipts.

153. The estimate for 1932-33 allowed provision for new immediate recurring and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 5,41,000 respectively, with ultimate liabilities of Expenditure.

Rs. 1,06,000 recurring and Rs. 5,64,000 non-recurring. The provision for expenditure on new schemes was shared almost equally by the reserved and transferred sides of Government. Owing however to the provision under the heads "30—Scientific departments" and "Expenditure in England" having proved to be short of requirements, and to the demand for incurring larger expenditure than was provided for in the original budget under certain heads due to the abnormal political situation of the province, supplementary grants to the extent of Rs. 6,72,000 under the following heads were voted by the Legislative Council during the year.

	Rs.
26—Police	3,00,000
30—Scientific departments	500
41—Civil works	64,500
47—Miscellaneous	2,60,000
Expenditure in England	47,000
Total ..	6,72,000

The total grant available for expenditure during the year on revenue account was therefore Rs. 11,18,92,000, against which the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,66,08,000, leaving a saving of Rs. 52,84,000. The actual expenditure in 1931-32 was Rs. 11,00,52,000. The smaller expenditure in 1932-33 as compared with the actuals of 1931-32 was chiefly due to the continuance of the 10 per cent. emergent cut in salaries for the whole of the year under report as against a three months' cut in 1931-32, and to the exercise of strict economy and the postponement of expenditure where possible. Larger savings in 1932-33 as compared with the sanctioned net estimate occurred under the following heads, in addition to smaller savings under almost every head, the latter being due generally to the strict observance of economy:—

	Rs.
5—Land Revenue	3,48,000
24—Administration of justice	3,21,000
25—Jails	10,14,000
26—Police	4,83,000
32—Medical	3,52,000
33—Public health	3,01,000
41—Civil works	9,95,000
45—Commutation of pension	4,72,000

The savings under the head "5—Land revenue" were almost entirely due to postponement of expenditure. As a result of the present economic distress there was a substantial decrease in work

in the civil courts in 1932-33, and this rendered curtailment of expenditure under the head "24—Administration of justice" possible. Owing to the abnormal political situation, and to the impossibility of guessing probable expenditure accurately under the heads "25—Jails" and "26—Police," increased provisions were made under those heads. The increased provisions, however, eventually proved to be in excess of requirements. Smaller expenditure in mental hospitals, and decrease in expenditure in hospital dietary and clothing charges owing to a fall in prices, and the payment of smaller grants for public health purposes were the main reasons for the savings under the head "32—Medical" and "33—Public health." Non-utilisation in full of the provision for improvement of communications out of the Road Development Fund, due to the fact that all the schemes provided for did not mature in time, and also a smaller demand for payment of commutation of pensions to retired officers in whose cases commutation was obligatory, mainly accounted for the large savings under the heads "Civil works" and "Commutation of pensions." Against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 60,54,000 under Capital account the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 45,26,000, the bulk of the savings being due to correspondingly smaller expenditure under "Subvention from the Central Road Development Account" as already explained under the head "41—Civil (works"), and to smaller advances to agriculturists. The system of the control of expenditure introduced in 1925 with a view to checking its progress against the sanctioned grants wsa continued during the year, and proved to be useful.

Statement of Receipts.

[The figure are in thousands of rupees.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1931-32.	Budget, 1932-33.	Actuals, 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
III—Salt	5,37	6 ,00	6,04
V—Land revenue	3,06,22	3,15,69	3,00,06
VI—Excise	1,56,00	1,68,00	1,40,32
VII—Stamps	2,71,09	2,95,00	3,13,01
VIII—Forest	16,94	18,00	15,12
IX—Registration	19,33	20,25	18,47
IXA—Scheduled taxes	13,04	14,00	11,31
XII—Subsidised companies	76	92	81
XIII—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which capital accounts are kept	—2,69	—5,06	—4,41
XIV—Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept	2,16	2,36	2,11

[The figure are in thousands of rupees.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1931-32. Rs.	Budget, 1932-33. Rs.	Actuals 1932-33 Rs.
XIV—Interest	4,30	4,71	6,18
XVII—Administration of Justice	13,07	10,00	14,51
XVIII—Jails and convict settlements ..	9,28	7,65	6,76
XIX—Police	13,86	11,54	11,34
XX—Ports and Pilotage	75	73	76
XXI—Education	13,41	13,74	13,56
XXII—Medical	10,22	10,87	10,40
XXIII—Public Health	1,54	1,45	1,26
XXIV—Agriculture	5,81	6,71	6,30
XXV—Industries	7,11	7,03	7,12
XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments ..	19	3,19	15,63
XXX—Civil works	17,35	22,50	15,76
XXXII—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund ..	1,12	71	48
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation ..	1,48	1,36	1,29
XXXIV—Stationery and Printing ..	4,52	4,88	4,61
XXXV—Miscellaneous	8,19	9,44	14,71
XXXIXA—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments ..	..	..	..
XL—Extraordinary Receipts	58	1,16	2,10
Receipts in England	6	1	4
Total Revenue Receipts ..	9,01,06	9,52,84	9,35,65
Famine Relief Fund	78	69	63
Deposit account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	16	62	49
Depreciation fund for government presses ..	1,06	1,15	1,16
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund, Government of India	21,50	15,83	14,83
	1,91,00	1,59,51	1,00,02
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt	7,76	9,18	8,66
Subvention from Central Road Development Account	6,00	6,50	22,55
Suspense	6,21	6,10	5,87
Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	11,70	10,84	20,70
Total receipts on capital account	2,46,17	2,10,42	1,74,91
Total ..	11,47,23	11,63,26	11,10,56
Opening balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	13,12	12,00	12,78
Other opening balances	26,55	9,48	78
Total opening balance	39,67	21,48	13,56
Grand Total	11,86,90	11,84,74	11,24,12

Statement of Expenditure.

[The figure are in thousands of rupees.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1931-32.	Budget, 1932-33.	Actuals, 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
5—Land Revenue	41,24	41,25	37,77
6—Excise—	19,55	17,80	17,00
7—Stamps	4,10	5,38	4,61
8—Forest	14,97	16,13	14,48
8A—Forest—Capital outlay charged to revenue	1,64	1,20	61
9—Registration	18,94	18,99	17,47
9A—Scheduled taxes	15	15	15
14—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	18,23	18,24	18,04
15—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue	10,59	11,37	10,69
15 (1)—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from famine relief grants ..	..	..	..
16—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works	20	..	2
19—Interest on ordinary debt	—6,74	5,76	4,81
20—Interest on other obligations ..	9	1	2
21—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	7,76	9,18	8,66
22—General administration	1,23,29	1,18,89	1,17,12
24—Administration of justice	1,01,68	97,35	94,14
25—Jails and convict settlements	36,91	50,51	40,37
26—Police	2,20,95	2,20,85	2,19,02
27—Ports and pilotage	4,32	4,85	4,65
30—Scientific departments	34	29	29
31—Education (Reserved)	13,38	12,71	11,96
31—Education (Transferred)	1,20,42	1,16,46	1,14,51
32—Medical	51,52	51,88	48,36
33—Publc health	38,24	39,84	36,83
34—Agriculture	25,38	24,80	23,42
35—Industries	11,59	11,38	10,96
37—Miscellaneous departments	2,27	2,12	2,03
41—Civil works	88,44	85,56	76,26
43—Famine relief	2,33	1,30	48
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	49,48	49,40	52,14
45A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue.	6,22	8,00	3,28
46—Stationery and printing	20,93	21,17	18,24
47—Miscellaneous	10,38	11,61	18,29
Expenditure in England	41,73	37,77	39,40
Total expenditure from ordinary revenue ..	11,00,52	11,12,20	10,66,08

[The figure are in thousands of rupees.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1931-32.	Budget, 1932-33.	Actuals, 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
52A—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue in England	..	..	..
55—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works (not charged to revenue)—			
In India	9,20	14,71	13,11
In England	.	16	29
60—Civil works not charged to revenue—			
In India	8,88	2,41	1,05
In England	9	..	..
60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue)	..	..	..
Famine Relief Fund	1,12	71	48
Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	9	68	61
Depreciation Fund for Government presses ..	38	21	13
Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund ..	7,76	9,18	8,66
Subvention from Central Road Development Account	10,97	15,98	10,29
Suspense	6,34	6,15	5,90
Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	17,99	10,35	4,74
Total expenditure on capital accounts ..	72,82	60,54	45,26
Total expenditure	11,73,34	11,72,74	11,11,34
Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	12,78	12,00	12,78
Other closing balances	78	..	..
Total closing balance	13,56	12,00	12,78
Grand Total	11,86,90	11,84,74	11,24,12

Stamps.

[Annual statistics of the stamp Department for the year 1932-33.]

Revenue and charges.

154. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 3,20,15,466 during the year showing an increase of Rs. 41,62,505 or about 15 per cent over those of 1931-32. There was an increase in receipts under judicial stamps, but the revenue from non-judicial stamps declined. The charges during the year were Rs. 11,81,784 against Rs. 11,49,736 of the previous year.

155. The sale proceeds of court-fees stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 1,99,61,160 in 1931 to Rs. 2,41,88,510 in 1932-33. Increases occurred in all districts but four, viz., 24-Parganas, Jessore, Khulna, and Dinajpur. The most marked increase was in Calcutta due entirely to the realisation of deficit probate duty on the estates of Sir David Yule, Lord Inchcape, Mr. A. H. Forbes and others. Judicial stamps.

156. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps fell from Rs. 72,25,681 in 1931-32 to Rs. 71,32,658 showing a decrease of Rs. 93,023. The decline in revenue was shared by all districts of the province except Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta, Murshidabad, Tippera and Bogra, and of these Calcutta and Tippera showed the largest increases. The most marked decreases occurred in the districts of Jessore, Khulna, Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Noakhali, and Dinajpur, and they were generally attributed to depression of trade and in some measure to the amended Bengal Tenancy Act, 1929. Non-judicial stamps.

157. The number of licensed stamp vendors fell from 5,367 to 4,905, but the amount of discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 2,62,234 to Rs. 2,68,102 during the year. Sale of stamps.

158. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 decreased from 1,403 in 1931-32 to 1,356 in 1932-33, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 14,081 to Rs. 12,853. On the other hand the number of cases dealt with by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act, and the amount of duty and penalty realised on account of the same, increased from 1,754 to 1,789 and from Rs. 40,983 to Rs. 52,502, respectively during the year. Deficient duty.

159. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 430 against 464 in the previous year. Of the 444 persons brought to trial, 443 were convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 138 and 129. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 6,048 to Rs. 4,712 and the amount of rewards paid to informers decreased from Rs. 3,499 to Rs. 2,747. Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

160. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1932-33, including those pending at the beginning of the year, complete enquiries were made into 65·7 per cent. against 67·5 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of the deficit duty to the amount originally realised was 23·5 per cent. against 24·3 per cent. in the previous year. Working of section 19H of the Court-fees Act.

Excise.

Excise licensing Boards and advisory committees.

161. During the year licensing boards functioned in respect of number and location of shops for the retail sale of excisable articles and opium in all the districts of the Presidency except Darjeeling, where the excise advisory committee was in force. They worked satisfactorily.

Revenue.

162. The total excise revenue fell from Rs. 1,56,82,184 to Rs. 1,40,59,029, i.e., 11·15 per cent., the decrease being under almost all the heads. The largest decrease amounting to Rs. 8,64,522 occurred under "Total receipts from country spirit", followed by Rs. 3,70,975 under "Total receipts from opium". Rs. 3,04,903 under "Total receipts from hemp drugs", Rs. 1,74,153 under "Receipts from country fermented liquors—Pachwai", Rs. 1,01,662 under "Receipts from Tari", Rs. 30,265 under "Duty on spirits used in manufacture of medicines, etc." There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,90,080 under the head "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors", Rs. 14,688 under "License fees for sale of beer manufactured in India or elsewhere", Rs. 10,544 under "License fees for the sale of foreign liquors", and Rs. 9,735 under "Duty on spirits used for other commercial, scientific or industrial purposes." The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 4 annas 6 pies against 4 annas 11 pies in the preceding year.

Country spirit.

163. The total number of licenses for the retail sale of country spirit was 909 against 919 in the preceding year. Consumption decreased in all the districts except Tippera, where there was a slight increase of 59 L.P. gallons only. Noticeable decreases took place in the districts of Howrah, 24-Parganas, Bankura, Chittagong, Jessore, Midnapore, Hooghly, Burdwan, Calcutta and Darjeeling. The cause of this all-round fall in consumption was the prevailing economic distress and the consequent increase of illicit distillation.

Tari.

164. Licenses for the retail vend of fermented tari were settled by auction in the tree-tax area as well as in other areas of the Presidency. The tree-tax system of taxation which remained in force in the districts of Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah contributed 50 per cent. of the total revenue from tari. The total number of retail tari licenses fell from 484 to 467 and the total revenue from Rs. 7,88,745 to Rs. 6,87,083. The decrease was due to the general economic distress and a consequent increase in illicit operations.

Pachwai.

165. The total number of pachwai licenses issued was 62,357 against 59,185 in 1931-32. The revenue in license fees from retail vend shops fell from Rs. 11,96,604 to Rs. 10,19,559. The

decrease was marked in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Hooghly districts. In all these districts the decrease in revenue was due to a fall in consumption owing to the economic condition of the consumers.

166. The total number of licenses issued for "Trade" and "Public" vend of potable foreign liquor was 1,932 against 1,663 (revised figures) in the preceding year. The total receipts from license fees increased from Rs. 3,90,887 to Rs. 4,16,119. Foreign liquor.

167. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,214 against 1,211 in 1931-32. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 28,44,438 against Rs. 30,94,554 in the preceding year, the net decrease amounting to Rs. 2,50,116. The total quantity of ganja consumed was 943 maunds against 1,013 maunds in 1931-32. Consumption fell in all the districts except Tippera and Rajshahi. The fall was due to the economic distress of the people on account of trade depression and the low price of agricultural products. Ganja.

168. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 263 maunds against 302 maunds in the preceding year. The total revenue from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,23,161 against Rs. 1,41,876 in 1931-32 showing a decrease of Rs. 18,715. Bhang.

169. The total number of licenses issued for retail sale of charas was 34 against 33 in 1931-32, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 1,50,380 as compared with Rs. 1,86,452 in the preceding year. Charas.

170. The total quantity of opium consumed fell from 804 maunds to 737 maunds and the total receipt from Rs. 41,89,736 to Rs. 38,18,761 in 1931-32. The decrease in consumption was largely due to the general depression in trade and to the economic distress of the consuming public. Opium.

171. Four hundred and sixty-one licenses were issued during the year to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine, against 468 in 1931-32. Ninety-one permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision. Sixty-two permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 32 against 281 in the previous year. The total quantity of cocaine seized in Bengal was 1,252 ounces as compared with 1,083 ounces in the previous year. Of the total quantity seized during the year, 1,210 ounces were seized by the Customs offices, 21 ounces by the Excise staff, and 21 ounces by the police in Calcutta. Cocaine.

172. The total number of persons prosecuted and convicted on charges under the excise and opium laws was 11,782 and 10,448 respectively against 9,312 and 8,218 in the previous year. Excise offences.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

Rate.

173. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and immovable properties. The valuation of gross rental, on which cesses are based, amounted to Rs. 16,50,35,840 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,05,16,601. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·4 per cent.

Demands and collections.

174. The total cess demand during the year was Rs. 1,39,43,458, the current demand being Rs. 93,05,325 against Rs. 92,23,386 of the previous year. Thus there was an increase of Rs. 81,939 in the current demand which was mainly contributed by the districts of Murshidabad, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Pabna. In Burdwan there was a noticeable decrease of Rs. 69,323 of whieh Rs. 48,444 was due to the exclusion of demands from other districts and Rs. 20,879 to the depression in the coal trade. The percentage of total collection on current demand of all classes of estates rose to 86·70 from 85·53 of the preceding year. The percentage of outstanding balance on total demand rose to 42·07 from 36;56 in the previous year. The percentage of total collection on the net current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura and Darjeeling. In the remaining districts it varied from 62·40 to 99·9. The fall is due to the general economic depression.

Working of the certificate procedure.

175. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of arrears of cesses was 55,818 against 52,472 in the preceding year. Including certificates pending from the previous year the total number of certificates for disposal came to 91,701, of which 48,639 were disposed of and 43,062 left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

176. General revaluation operations on a large scale were in progress in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Chittagong. The revision of assessment on coal mines in Birbhum and Burdwan, and of certain gazari forests in Dacca and Mymensingh, was made as usual under Chapter V of the Cess Act. The valuation of some *hats* and fairs was also made in Midnapore.

CHAPTER VI.—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

177. Twenty-three Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1932-33:— Acts passed.

(1) *The Bengal Rhinoceros Preservation Act, 1932 (Bengal Act VIII of 1932)*, to prevent the extinction, as far as possible, of the rhinoceros in Bengal.

(2) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act IX of 1932)*, to empower the union boards to undertake small irrigation projects and to make grants to dispensaries and libraries. (A non-official measure.)

(3) *The Bengal Opium Smoking Act, 1932 (Bengal Act X of 1932)*, gradually to stamp out the vice of opium smoking.

(4) *The Bengal Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XI of 1932)*, to remove certain defects found in the light of experience in the parent Act.

(5) *The Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XII of 1932)*, to take special powers to deal with terrorist activities.

(6) *The Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XIII of 1932)*, to remove certain difficulties experienced in the actual working of the parent Act.

(7) *The Bengal Cess (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XIV of 1932)*, to extend section 52A of the Cess Act enacted for West Bengal in 1910 to the districts of East Bengal in order to obviate certain difficulties in the matter of proving the publication of notices under section 52 of the Cess Act in suits for arrears of cess for rent-free lands within any estate or tenure. (A non-official measure.)

(8) *The Bengal Municipal Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XV of 1932)*, to consolidate and amend the existing law by introducing changes in municipal administration, and to further the interests of democracy by extending the municipal franchise. Additional powers of taxation were also added to enable municipalities to undertake certain schemes of urban improvement and projects conducive to the health and welfare of the people.

(9) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XVI of 1932)*, to secure separate representation for the Kalighat area on the Corporation of Calcutta. (A non-official measure.)

(10) *The Land-Revenue Sales (Repealing) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XVII of 1932)*, to repeal the Bengal Land-Revenue Sales Act, 1841 (XII of 1841.)

(11) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Second Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XVIII of 1932)*, to provide a period of limitation for execution of a decree passed by a union court.

(12) *The Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XIX of 1932)*, to rectify the defective wording in sub-section (4) of section 15 of the parent Act.

(13) *The Presidency Small Cause Courts (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XX of 1932)*, to regularise the payment of conveyance charges to the bailiffs, and to fix a rate at which the peons who keep guard over distrained properties are to be paid.

(14) *The Bengal Criminal Law (Arms and Explosives) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XXI of 1932)*, to provide increased penalties for offences under the Arms and Explosives Substances Acts and in connection with the terrorist movement, and also to provide increased facilities for trying such offences.

(15) *The Bengal Public Security Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XXII of 1932)*, to provide for certain eventualities by taking powers in reserve to deal with the civil disobedience movement.

(16) *The Calcutta Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XXIII of 1932)*, to provide joint electorates with reservation of seats for the minority communities, on the Corporation of Calcutta.

(17) *The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XXIV of 1932)*, to remove practical difficulties in the working of the parent Act, and to effect certain specific administrative improvements.

(18) *The Howrah Municipal (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act I of 1933)*, to enable the Municipal Commissioners of Howrah to frame and pass the budget estimates and to fix the consolidated rate and other taxes to be levied for the year 1933-34 and to provide for the continuance of certain matters under the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, as extended to that municipality.

(19) *The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act II of 1933)*, to secure the privileges of representation for the minority communities in district and local boards similar to those introduced in municipalities.

(20) *The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act III of 1933)*, to secure for the properties of the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta the special provisions of assessment contained

in Part IV, Chapter IV of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, by making them applicable to the Howrah Municipality and to any other municipalities in the vicinity of Calcutta where there are Port Trust properties.

(21) *The Bengal Patni Taluks Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act IV of 1933)*, to provide facilities to defaulting patnidars to enable them to have the sale of their taluks set aside on payment of the sale price with compensation.

(22) *The Opium (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act V of 1933)*, to provincialise the Opium Act, 1878, in its application to Bengal so as to bring it into line with the Bengal Excise Act, 1909 (Bengal Act V of 1909), for administrative convenience.

(23) *The Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VI of 1933)*, to deal with commercialised vice. The Bill was passed on the 1st April, 1933. (A non-official measure.)

Government Bills pending.

178. No Government Bills remained pending at the close of the year under review.

Non-official members' Bills pending.

179. The following non-official members' Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(1) *The Bengal Waqfs Bill, 1932*, by Maulvi Abdul Ghani Chowdhury, to provide for the better administration of waqfs in Bengal.

(2) *The Bengal Mela Sanitation Bill, 1932*, by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, to give district boards control over sanitation and public health in melas and fairs in Bengal. In respect of the above two Bills the Select Committee work was not completed, but a preliminary report was presented to the Council in each case.

(3) *The Bengal Money Lenders Bill, 1933*, by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, to place a definite check on usury, and to give certain powers to the civil court so that that courts may not be utilized for the purpose of enforcing certain extortionate transactions between money-lenders and debtors. In the case of the above Bill the Select Committee to which the Bill was recommitted decided to obtain the opinion of certain public bodies on the Bill as amended by the first Select Committee.

180. The following Bills were under circulation for opinion in compliance with motions carried in the Council:—

(1) *The Bengal Tenants Protection from Usury Bill, 1932*, by Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, to provide protection to the agriculturists by lowering the general rate of interest to be charged on loans.

(2) *The Puri Lodging House (Amendment) Bill, 1932*, by Rai Kamini Kumar Das Bahadur, to provide for the payment of a license fee by people who invite pilgrims to their houses but avoid payment under a pretext.

(3) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, by Khan Bahadur Md. Abdul Momin, to deal with the extension of the franchise.

(4) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, to remove certain difficulties alleged to have been experienced regarding certain provisions of the parent Act.

181. The following two Bills were merely introduced:—

(1) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, by Babu Jitendralal Banerjee, to amend section 23 of the parent Act with a view to widen the residential qualification, so as to include within it persons who may not be in actual physical occupation throughout the year within a municipality.

(2) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhury, to authorise union boards to take steps necessary for the improvement of cattle.

Non-official members' Bills withdrawn.

182. The Council also in addition dealt with the following Bills brought forward by non-official members:—

(1) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, of Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, to amend the provisions relating to enhancement of rent and execution of decrees in rent cases.

(2) *The Bengal Pasture Bill, 1932*, of Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to provide sufficient and suitable food for cattle. In the case of the above two Bills the motion to refer them to a Select Committee was withdrawn by leave of the Council.

(3) *The Bengal Disorders Compensation Bill, 1932*, of Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, to put a stop to communal riots.

(4) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1932*, of Maulvi Abul Kasem, to secure separate representation for Muhammadans on the Calcutta Corporation.

(5) *The Bengal Alluvial Lands (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, of Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullik, to remove certain irregularities noticed in the parent Act of 1920 and certain difficulties felt by the riparian owners of lands. The above Bills were withdrawn by their sponsors with the leave of the Council.

183. The Council rejected motions for reference to a Select Committee in the case of the following Bills:— Non-official members' Bills lost.

(1) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1931*, of Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick, to secure better representation for wards Nos. 28 and 29 on the Corporation of Calcutta.

(2) *The Nadia Waterways Bill, 1932* of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, to create a statutory board to look after the waterways in the Nadia district with a view to their reclamation.

The following Bill was rejected at the introduction stage:—

(3) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1932*, of Mr. A. Raheem, C.I.E., to secure separate representation for Muhammadans on the Corporation of Calcutta.

The following two Bills were on the order paper of the Council, but the sponsors did not move the motions standing in their names when called upon:—

(4) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1932*, of Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, to secure certain privileges for tenants.

(5) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1932*, of Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to change the designation of the Mayor of Calcutta to "Lord Mayor."

CHAPTER VII.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Administration Report of the Calcutta Corporation for the year 1932-33.]

Personnel.

184. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Mr. S. M. Yukub were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively and acted as such throughout the year under review.

Finance.

185. The revenue account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,04,07,933. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,26,32,931 and the payments to Rs. 2,39,67,962. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income amounted to Rs. 2,41,78,000 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,40,81,000. On the basis of actual receipts and payments there was a balance of Rs. 90,72,902, of which Rs. 60,51,371 was in cash and securities. The rest consisted of stores-in-stock, Rs. 7,32,525 and advances Rs. 22,89,006. The latter included Rs. 14,46,130 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the schemes for the extension of water-supply, drainage and other capital works to be recouped on the raising of loans. During the year under report the two 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loans, dated 1st August 1902 and 1st September 1915, for Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 13,23,300 respectively were repaid. For repayment of the loan, dated the 1st August 1902, for Rs. 15 lakhs a 6 per cent. Debenture Loan for Rs. 7,78,400, dated the 1st August 1932, was raised by calling tenders, the balance being available from the Sinking Fund established under section 108 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923. The loan, dated the 1st September 1915, for Rs. 13,23,300 was repaid entirely from its Sinking Fund established under section 106 of the Act. A further sum of Rs. 4,959-12 was repaid to Government on account of the loan of the now defunct Maniktola Municipality. In February, 1932 an application was submitted to Government for sanction to the raising of two 6½ per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loans of Rs. 16,30,000 and Rs. 5,19,000. The former was for works and the latter for repayment on 1st March 1932 of the 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loan of 1901-02, dated 1st March 1902, for Rs. 10 lakhs, the balance being available from the Sinking Fund. Sanction to the loan of Rs. 5,19,000 was received in April 1932, and the debentures were

issued at par to and in the name of the Corporation. As regards the proposal for a 6½ per cent. loan of Rs. 16,30,000 for works, Rs. 10 lakhs only carrying interest at 6½ per cent. per annum was sanctioned by Government in September 1932. This rate of interest was subsequently reduced to 5½ per cent. and the loan was raised in October 1932 by calling tenders. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 8,29,28,407 including Rs. 74,39,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture Loan of £500,000 and Rs. 16,115 on account of the balance of the loan taken from Government by the now defunct Maniktola Municipality. Against this indebtedness, there was an aggregate accumulation of Rs. 2,02,78,314 in the Sinking Funds. The total payments made on account of loan charges during 1932-33 amounted to Rs. 56,31,656.

Assessment Department.

186. At the close of the year the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,45,31,788, being an increase of Rs. 2,56,990 over the valuation at the end of the previous year. This was not only due to the revaluation of properties made during the year, for which the revised assessment became operative, but also included those cases in respect of which objections pending during previous years were disposed of in the course of the year under report.

Surveyor and Valuer's Department.

187. Plans and estimates for 157 projects involving an area of 78 bighas of land at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 37 lakhs were prepared, and a little over 5¾ bighas of lands were acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, under section 304 of the Calcutta Municipal Act and by private treaty at a total cost of Rs. 2,23,706. In addition small plots were received free of cost from parties measuring three quarters of a bigha and valued at Rs. 14,570.

Collection Department.

188. The total gross demand on account of consolidated rate including the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year was Rs. 2,07,70,415, of which Rs. 1,70,32,445 was collected, Rs. 7,56,999 was cancelled on account of holdings being vacant, and demands aggregating Rs. 17,141 were cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the net current demand was 88·21 against 95·133 in the previous year. The decrease in the percentage of collection and the increase in outstandings is to some extent due to economic causes, and the total outstanding demand in the hands of the Collector at the end of the year was Rs. 20,93,421, being Rs. 11,70,227 more than at the beginning of the year.

License Department.

189. The total receipts for the year 1932-33 on account of license taxes amounted to Rs. 14,14,970, including Rs. 11,38,611 on account of the tax on trades and professions, Rs. 68,608 tax on carriages and animals, and Rs. 1,05,994 as taxes under sections 179, 386, 405, 396, 413, 390 and 428. Rupees 1,01,097 were Cart Registration fees, and Rs. 702 were on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total number of licenses issued during the year was 50,596 and the total collection under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,35,465-8.

Lighting Department.

190. There were 18,935 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, of which 242 were added during the year. The number of oil and electric lamps was 919 and 3,355 respectively. As a result of the new agreement with the Oriental Gas Company, to which a reference was made in the previous year's report, there was a saving of Rs. 1,40,000 in gas consumption bills. A saving of about Rs. 27,000 was also effected due to reduction in rates charged by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., for the supply of energy. On account of the remodelling of high power electric lamps there was a further saving of Rs. 30,000 in electric bills.

Water-supply.

191. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 58·8 million gallons, and that of unfiltered water to about 50·9 million gallons, making a total average of 190·7 million gallons per day. The supply of filtered water per head per day in Calcutta was 49·1 gallons and that of unfiltered water 50·9 gallons. One engine at Pulta was repaired with a new shaft made locally, but the whole unit requires complete overhauling as soon as possible. One of the existing pumping sets was shifted from the Old Pressure Station to the Intake Station and was set to work there. Twelve additional sand washing machines were installed, and surface drains were constructed along the boundary of the pumping station compound to carry away the seepage water from the new settling tank. At Tallah arrangements were made for installing a Venturi Meter, on the old MacCable main and for electrifying the valves on the mains. New machinery was provided in the workshops of all the water pumping stations. Quite a large number of costly spare parts were manufactured both at Pulta and at Tallah. At Mullickghat the pump bodies of all the 3 big units were renewed during the year. The arrangement for supplementing the supply of drinking water in outlying areas by means of lorries continued, principally in Manicktolla and Garden Reach. As regards the Water-supply Extension Scheme, the Zone Main to District IV was completed except for the portion on the newly constructed

Alipore Bridge, a short length in Sterndale Road, and the cross connections at Dharramtalla Street and Diamond Harbour Road. The unfiltered water mains from Mullickghat and Watgunge pumping stations were completed. Several cross connections were made during the year linking up the new pipes with the old ones.

192. During the year under review Government accorded formal sanction to the Internal Drainage Scheme estimated to cost Rs. ·65 lakhs. Detailed estimates and drawings were sent to Government as required by them for the construction of an additional Town High Level Sewer as well as for the additional Suburban High Level Sewer, and these were sanctioned by Government under section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923. Tenders for both these works along with others were called in 1931-32; but the matter had to be kept in abeyance until funds could be made available. The tender for the construction of the additional Town High Level Sewer was accepted by the Corporation, and the work was taken in hand. Out of a total length of 9,650 feet of the sewer, about 2,900 feet was completed. The construction of an Intercepting sewer 42 inches in diameter near the Ballygunge Railway Station was also taken up. Some of the newly developed areas, viz., the Hindusthan Area on Rash Behari Avenue, Dover Road and Nundy Street, and a portion of Garden Reach on the west of the Kidderpore Docks, were sewered. The inspection and survey of City Sewers is being pushed on and 70 miles of sewers were surveyed during the year, making a total of 330 miles. The work is now nearing completion. To give relief to the drainage congestion of the city one electric pump (capacity 1·75 million gallons per hour) was installed at the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station. In connection with the Calcutta Improvement Trust Scheme XV the Engine room at the Ballygunge Pumping Station was extended and two powerful storm water pumps are being erected there. These will, when completed, greatly facilitate the disposal of sewage and storm water at this station. The present outfall of the city's drainage system has deteriorated seriously. The banks of the Suburban Head Cut and Reservoir are being raised. The Bidyadhari has practically ceased to function as an outfall, and it is necessary that a new outfall should be devised without delay. Drainage.

193. Sixty-two bustees comprising about 125 bustee holdings were surveyed during the year with a view to having them improved, and standard plans were prepared in respect of 110 bustees. Nineteen bighas of bustee land were cleared of huts. About 1½ miles of roads were opened up and 59 connected privies Bustee Department.

and two bathing platforms were constructed in various bustees. Forty-seven private streets were improved during the year as the result of action taken by the Department.

Conservancy.

194. The total quantity of refuse carried to the Square Mile at Dhappa, dumped at the different low lands and burnt at the Incinerator, amounted to 469,211 tons during the year 1932-33. The average quantity of refuse dealt with daily was 1,285 tons.

Roads and Buildings.

195. The total expenditure on roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 14,84,000. Out of this, Rs. 4,22,000 was spent for the construction and improvement of roads, including Rs. 3,40,000 on new bituminous road surfaces. In addition a sum of Rs. 2,54,000 was spent on repairs to roads previously asphalted, and Rs. 4,38,000 on repairs to other roads. The total number of applications for masonry buildings, huts, sky-signs and verandahs, etc., dealt with during the year was 10,413 against 9,511 in the previous year. Twenty-four per cent. of the applications in the case of masonry buildings and 39 per cent. in the case of huts were sanctioned in the same year. In all 2,117 notices were issued in respect of old and insecure buildings against 1,700 in 1931-32. With a view to stop unauthorised construction 1,596 notices were served against 1,592 in the previous year.

Health Department.

196. The total number of births registered during the year 1932 in the city including the Added Areas was 24,925 or 20·7 per mille as compared with 26,477 births in the previous year. This is a little lower than the birth rate of 22·1 per mille in the preceding year. The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole city including the Added Areas was 30,011 or 25·0 per mille against 30,562 deaths or a death rate of 4·5 per mille in 1931. There was an increase in the mortality from enteric, malaria and influenza as compared with the figures of the preceding year, the number of deaths from enteric being 864 against 759 in 1931 and those from malaria and influenza being 882 and 537 respectively against 773 and 492 of the previous year. The total number of deaths from kala-azar and from other fevers was 241 and 1,345 respectively against 296 deaths from kala-azar and 1,515 deaths from other fevers in 1931. The total number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa and from respiratory diseases was 2,810 and 6,593 respectively against 2,958 and 6,611 of the previous year. The mortality from cholera and tuberculosis was 1,212 and 2,547 respectively as against 1,235 deaths from cholera and 2,931 deaths from tuberculosis in 1931. Cholera was epidemic in the city during the year under report, but the epidemic was less severe than in the previous year. The total number of deaths from smallpox was 685 with a death rate of

·57 per mille against 891 deaths or ·74 per mille in the previous year. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 6,123, the infant mortality rate being 246 per thousand registered births as compared with 6,467 deaths or 244 per thousand births of the previous year. The Lady Health Visitors and Midwives fully maintained their popularity and usefulness. They delivered 6,947 cases, and removed 103 difficult cases of labour to the different hospitals in the city. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 104, excluding 177 still births. The rate of infantile mortality within the first 10 days of birth in cases attended by the Corporation staff was 15 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality within the first week in the whole city was 60·4 per thousand. There were only 5 maternal deaths among the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

197. The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 7,901, of which 1,719 or 21;7 per cent.• were found adulterated. A total of 635 out of 1,571 samples of milk, 201 out of 1,808 samples of ghee, 46 out of 435 samples of butter, 134 out of 1,024 samples of sweetmeats, 464 out of 2,068 samples of mustard oil, 3 out of 57 samples of khoa khir, 140 out of 328 samples of invalid food, 21 out of 134 samples of tea, nil out of 270 samples of flour, and 6 out of 50 samples of channa were found adulterated. The total number of prosecutions disposed of during the year under review was 5,445. Of these 3,287 cases ended in conviction, and the fines realised amounted to Rs. 26,765-8. Food Inspection.

198. During the year 1932-33 there was an increase in revenue derived from Municipal Markets by Rs. 6,734, the total collections being Rs. 12,36,289 as compared with Rs. 12,29,555 actuals of the preceding year. Markets.

199. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 13,94,914 against Rs. 11,68,753 in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 232 Corporation Free Primary Schools with 31,008 pupils against 229 schools and 30,064 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on the rolls, 17,803 were boys and 13,205 girls as compared with 17,415 boys and 12,649 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 3 were part-time schools and were held in the morning, while 225 were day schools and 4 night schools, the corresponding figures of the previous year being 3, 223 and 3 respectively. At the close of the year there were 1,038 teachers in all Corporation Free Primary Schools, of whom 666 were men and 372 were women. Education Department.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1932-33.]

Improvement Schemes.

200. The most important work in actual construction continued to be the extension of Chittaranjan Avenue in two schemes covering its length from Beadon Street northwards as far as Shambazar Street. Two smaller schemes were completed in the south of Calcutta, one being the extension of Lansdowne Road up to Rash Behari Avenue, and the other the widening of the Diamond Harbour Road which leads up to the reconstructed Government highway to Diamond Harbour. Work was also in progress on the approaches to the new bridges across the Canal on the Maniktala and Baliaghata Roads.

Open Spaces.

201. Playing fields in the large park in Cossipore-Chitpore and in the Eastern Park were allotted to clubs up to the limit of available accommodation. Liberal provision was made in the improvement schemes in progress or in preparation for the provision of open spaces, and every new project of any size had its square park or playground. The Dhakuria Lake and its environs continued to grow in popularity as the principal fresh air and recreation resort of South Calcutta.

Bridges.

202. The Alipore Bridge was completed, and work was begun on the Chitpore Bridge during the year.

Rehousing.

203. One new rehousing scheme was undertaken at Christopher Road for the bustee population liable to be displaced by the execution of Scheme No. XXXV (Eastern Park to Gorachand Road). A special feature of the new scheme was that the land was to be developed as a model bustee for displaced bustee dwellers.

Finance.

204. As the result of the prevailing depression, there was a further decrease in the revenue income from special taxation, viz., (1) duty on transfer of property, (2) terminal tax, and (3) duty on jute. The total receipts from these heads fell from Rs. 16·57 lakhs to Rs. 15·38 lakhs, a decrease of 7 per cent. mainly accounted for by the duty on jute falling to Rs. 9,12,232 as against Rs. 9,92,925 in 1931-32. The receipts from the sale of land, however, increased from Rs. 24·71 lakhs to Rs. 29.20 lakhs. The municipal contribution rose from Rs. 19·73 lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 19·92 lakhs in 1932-33.

Municipalities.

Number of municipalities and Elections held.

205. The number of municipalities was 117 as in the previous year. General elections were held in 56 municipalities during the year. In some cases the position was complicated by the application of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932 (Bengal Act XV of 1932), which came into force on 1st December 1932. In the Presidency Division elections were held in 18 municipalities under the new Act, but before it came into force an election under the old Act had already taken place at Budge Budge. In the Burdwan Division the Uttarpara municipality had to hold two general elections in the course of a few months, one under the old and another under the new Act; while the Burdwan municipality, where a general election under the old Act took place in 1932, held another election in March 1933 under the new Act. In the Rajshahi Division general elections under the old Act were held in Bogra and Darjeeling, and in 8 other municipalities under the new Act. All 13 general elections in the Dacca Division were held under the new Act. The elections at Kurseong were overdue, but could not be held owing to uncertainty as to the applicability of the new Act to Darjeeling district. The elective system was for the first time introduced in the Bhatpara and Dum Dum municipalities, where the commissioners had hitherto been appointed by Government. In the Arambagh and Vishnupur municipalities there was no polling and no contest, and the same occurred at Sherpur (Bogra) and Old Malda. There was no poll in the Gouripur and Nalchiti municipalities in the Dacca Division, as the number of candidates did not exceed the number of seats. Only one seat out of four at Cox's Bazar was contested. In most cases, however, the elections were keenly conteresd, and in 58 wards of 25 municipalities the percentage of attendance of voters was 80 or over. In 29 of these the percentage was 85 or over, and in 6 cases it was 90 or over. Four of the last were in the Dacca Division, two of them being wards of the Jamalpur municipality in Mymensingh district, where Ward I returned the highest percentage of voters in the province, namely 94 per cent. The voting throughout the Dacca Division was notably keen. In only 8 wards was the percentage 50 or less, and 3 of these were wards of the Howrah municipality. The lowest percentage was 24·1 in ward No. IX of Nator municipality, where only 21 out of 87 voters attended the poll.

Municipal meetings.

206. In all 2,809 meetings were held, of which 90 failed for want of a quorum and 210 were adjourned, as against 2,601, 118 and 249 respectively in the previous year. No less than 95 meetings in the Burdwan Division were adjourned, and the Hooghly-Chinsura municipality had the unenviable notoriety of being

responsible for adjourning 24 out of 51 meetings. In each of the three municipalities of Chandrakona (Midnapore), Baduria (24-Parganas), and English Bazar (Malda) as many as 6 meetings failed for want of a quorum. The only municipalities which failed to meet once a month were Mymensingh and Perojpur, which had 11 and 10 meetings respectively. The highest figure was 62, which was attained by Bansberia and Bally. The attendance of commissioners was reasonably good. In 10 municipalities the average attendance was over 80 per cent. and in 19 others it was over 70 per cent. In only 8 was it less than 50 per cent. The best record was that of Baranagar, with a percentage of 90·8. At Budge Budge the percentage was only 43·3, and at Debhatta it fell to the remarkable figure of 7·5 only. On the other hand a high percentage of attendance frequently means the existence of party faction, and is not of itself an indication of efficient management.

Rate-payers and population.

207. The total number of rate-payers rose from 343,600 to 346,520, and the population of the municipalities calculated on the basis of the 1931 Census was 2,294,392. There was a slight decrease in the number of rate-payers in the Presidency Division, but the relation of rate-payers to population remained at 14·2 per cent. In the Burdwan Division the number of rate-payers rose by 1,523, and the percentage from 15·1 to 15·3. There was a fall in numbers of 550 and in percentage from 18·3 to 18·07 in the Rajshahi Division; but in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions the number of rate-payers rose by 196 and 1,765 respectively, and the percentages from 14·4 to 14·5 and from 14·1 to 15·3 respectively. There was a notable increase in the number of rate-payers at Serajganj, but Darjeeling still returned the lowest ratio of rate-payers to population, i.e., 5·33 per cent. The highest figure was shown by Sherpur (Bogra) with 37·5 per cent.

Rates and taxes.

208. The total income of municipalities from rates and taxes during the year was Rs. 68,81,000 as against Rs. 70,76,000 in the previous year. The average incidence of taxation per head was Rs. 2-15-11, and the actual incidence ranged from Rs. 8-3-9 in Dum Dum and Rs. 4-5-7 in Hooghly-Chinsurah to Rs. 0-8-3 in Ramjibanpur and Rs. 0-7-1 in Baduria. Revisions of assessment were made in a number of municipalities. At Khardah and Brahmanbaria the tax on persons was replaced by a rate on holdings, the former having been abolished by the new Municipal Act. Bhatpara imposed lighting and water rates, and Khustia imposed a conservancy rate. Baranagar and Naihati increased their revenue by the assessment of new and improved holdings, and Tollyganj showed an increase of Rs. 3,646 in revenue as a result of assessment revision. General revision resulted in decreased revenue in

Ramjibanpur, Chandrakona, and Kharar, and partial revision produced a slight fall in revenue in Serajganj and Old Malda. Revision in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, on the other hand, produced large increases at Dacca (Rs. 5,794)), Narayanganj (Rs. 15,150), Chittagong (Rs. 5,305), Chandpur (Rs. 1,381), and Noakhali (Rs. 2,743-6-9), and the net increase for the whole Chittagong Division was Rs. 20,502-6-9. Decreases of revenue in Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrokona and Faridpur were due to remissions.

209. The total collections fell from Rs. 67·43 lakhs to Rs. 66·65 lakhs, and the percentage of total collection on current demand also fell slightly from 89·5 to 88·8. The decreases were due to the prevailing economic depression. In the Presidency Division there was a total fall of Rs. 26,574 in collections (arrear and current), but despite this 12 municipalities collected over 95 per cent. of the current demand, the highest figure (103·4 per cent.) being returned by Jangipur. Tollyganj, on the other hand, collected only 68·9 per cent. of its current demand. Collections decreased in 15 out of 29 municipalities in the Burdwan Division, and they exceeded current demand only at Midnapore and Vishnupur. In 12 other municipalities collections exceeded 90 per cent. of the current demand, and the lowest percentage (79·2) was returned by Ramjibanpur. Total collections in the Rajshahi Divisions fell by over Rs. 20,000. The best percentage of collection on current demand was returned by Kurseong (101·9), and the worst by Serajganj (75·02). In the Dacca Division, however, total collections increased slightly, and the percentage of collection on current demand was over 95 in 8 municipalities. It was highest in Muktagacha (102·2), and lowest in Jamalpur (73·3). In the Chittagong Division there was a fall in collections at Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Noakhali, but an improvement at Comilla and Brahmanbaria. Remissions for all municipalities in the province totalled Rs. 4,64,576, and the general percentage of remissions on current demand was 6·2 as against 6·0 and 5·3 in 1931-32 and 1930-31. The ratio of remissions to current demand varied from 41·2 per cent. at Chandrakona, 39 per cent. at Debhata, and 31·80 per cent. at Serajganj to ·5 per cent, at Bhadreswer and Kurseong. The Howrah, Hooghly-Chinsura and Dacca municipalities remitted as much as Rs. 1,61,969, Rs. 21,541, and Rs. 34,948 respectively, and the total remissions in the Rajshahi Division rose from Rs. 29,817 to Rs. 38,540. The total outstandings at the close of the year for all municipalities were Rs. 28,52,898. The only municipalities which showed no outstanding balance were Bhadreswer, Garulia, and Dhulian. Rajpur, on the other hand, had outstanding balances amounting to more Collection.

than its current demand. The largest outstanding balance was that of Howrah (Rs. 9,57,196), and then followed Dacca (Rs. 2,82,670), Mymensingh (Rs. 1,01,080), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 92,314), Tollyganj (Rs. 82,191), Barisal (Rs. 65,403), and Comilla (Rs. 61,780). Asansol, Bally, Serampore, Bankura, Burdwan, Raniganj, and Midnapore all had large outstandings, and the same applied to Serajganj, Chittagong, Rangpur, and South Suburban. The general decline in collection and increase in remissions and outstanding balances during the year can only partly be ascribed to the economic depression. The other principal causes were to be found in the reluctance of non-official executives to jeopardise their chances of office and election by taking coercive measures, and in their mismanagement of the assessment and collection departments. Not a few commissioners and other influential and well-to-do persons took advantage of their position to allow their taxes to fall into arrears, and in most cases no effective action was taken against them. The financial condition of many municipalities is deteriorating, and it will continue to do so as long as disinterested administration is lacking.

Income and expenditure.

210. The total receipts, with opening balances, fell from Rs. 1,22·4 lakhs in the preceding to Rs. 1,12·9 in the current year. This, however, compares favourably with receipts of Rs. 1,09·9 only in 1930-31. The total disbursements fell from Rs. 1,09 lakhs to Rs. 99·7 lakhs, but this again compares favourably with the expenditure of Rs. 96·75 lakhs in 1930-31. The total balance at the close of the year was Rs. 13·2 lakhs as against Rs. 13 lakhs in the previous year. Baranagar municipality had a closing balance of Rs. 48,674, representing funds accumulated for a water-supply scheme; while Budge-Budge, South Dum Dum, Titagarh, and Nabadwip also had large closing balances in the form of funds set apart for town improvement schemes. Some municipalities, on the other hand, failed to maintain balances sufficient to meet outstanding liabilities, and Debhatta finished the year with a balance of Rs. 50 only. Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Jalpaiguri held large closing balances, but in the case of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Sherpur, Pabna, and Serajganj the outstanding liabilities largely exceeded the closing balance.

Education.

211. The total amount spent on education rose from Rs. 5,03,105 in 1931-32 to Rs. 5,24,798 during the year under review. This amount included a Government contribution of Rs. 1,32,981. Expenditure on primary education totalled Rs. 3,55,029. In the Presidency Division primary education expenditure rose by Rs. 2,833, and Baranagar, Tollyganj, North Barrackpore, and Panihati municipalities increased their expenditure under this head. Murshidabad, on the other hand, spent only

Rs. 2 on primary education, and Dum Dum spent nothing whatever, while at Berhampore there was a decrease of Rs. 3,852. Howrah municipality considerably increased its expenditure by the establishment of more free primary schools, but still more might be done in the mill areas by establishing night schools for the illiterate labouring classes. Dinajpur made primary education free with effect from 1st April 1933, but it is reported that primary education is shockingly neglected in Pabna and Serajganj. Dacca spent Rs. 24,068 on primary schools, but this amount included a Government contribution of Rs. 13,118. Narayanganj maintained a free public library and five free primary schools. Chittagong municipality spent Rs. 59,132 on education, of which Rs. 17,962 was devoted to primary education. Three free schools for labouring classes, fishermen's boys, and sweepers' boys respectively were maintained, and aid was given to a girls' school for Jaladas and a night school for Santhals. Two Biss Scheme schools for boys were provided for in the budget of the Chandpur municipality.

Water-supply.

212. The total expenditure on water-supply during the year under review was Rs. 14·60 lakhs as compared with Rs. 17·34 lakhs in 1931-32. The decrease was due partly to the fact that several municipalities incurred heavy capital expenditure during the previous year, and partly to a general slowing down in respect of new undertakings by reason of the economic depression. Notable increases of expenditure occurred at Barisal (Rs. 39,267), Dum Dum (Rs. 38,828) and Dacca (Rs. 21,349). At Barisal a waterworks extension scheme was effected, and at Dacca a large number of pending bills were paid off. Serampore secured administrative approval for a water-supply extension and improvement scheme estimated to cost Rs. 3,46,000, and Burdwan obtained sanction for a similar scheme costing Rs. 26,974. The scheme proposed by the Hooghly-Chinsura municipality was under correspondence with the Public Health Department. The Burdwan Division as a whole showed a total decrease in expenditure of Rs. 1,68,930, and this decrease was marked in Asansol and Howrah. While Naihati, Nabadwip, Khulna and Khardah increased their expenditure, Satkhira, Kamarhati and Gobardanga spent less, and expenditure at Tollyganj fell by Rs. 3,899 owing to the non-payment of a bill for water supplied by the Calcutta Corporation. In the Rajshahi Division the total decrease was Rs. 80,969. The Rajshahi waterworks scheme made no progress owing to the failure of the donors to make good their promises, the principal donor, Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi of Putiya, having agreed to pay only Rs. 5,000 annually out of a promised contribution of Rs. 1 lakh. Similarly at Pabna the waterworks scheme remained at a standstill

as the Tarash zemindars were unwilling to pay anything out of a promised contribution of Rs. 50,000; and there was little prospect of progress being made with the waterworks scheme for Nawabganj. On the other hand, the joint water and electric supply scheme at Jalpaiguri made considerable progress, and the waterworks at English Bazar (Malda) were opened in October 1932. There were marked decreases of expenditure at Narayanganj (Rs. 74,215) and Faridpur (Rs. 16,106) on account of heavy payments for the preceding year's work. The waterworks at Dacca, Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Barisal, and Patuakhali continued to function during the year with generally satisfactory results, and in Patuakhali the supply of filtered drinking water effected a great diminution in the death rate from cholera. Chittagong spent Rs. 40,194 on water-supply, but the supply of water was not on the whole very satisfactory as the extension of the watered area without a corresponding strengthening of the pumping house engines resulted in an appreciable decrease in pressure. The supply of water at Comilla was also reported to be unsatisfactory. A waterworks scheme at Chandpur and an improvement scheme at Noakhali were under consideration at the close of the year.

Conservancy an drainage.

213. Expenditure on conservancy amounted to Rs. 22·64 lakhs as compared with Rs. 23·13 lakhs in the preceding year. This was well in excess of the receipts, which totalled Rs. 17·74 lakhs. The expenditure on drainage totalled Rs. 7·09 lakhs. Bhatpara showed a total decrease of Rs. 1,37,032 in conservancy and drainage expenditure, mainly owing to the fact that less was spent in connection with the town improvement scheme, which was almost completed. Naihati increased its expenditure due to the construction of pucca roadside drains, and an increase at Baranagar was due to increased establishment and to repeated repairs to conservancy motor lorries. Kamarhati increased the number of its sweepers and acquired land for a pail depot. No important new schemes were undertaken in the Burdwan Division, and although several municipalities contemplated the construction of sewerage drains, economic conditions made progress impossible. Heavy expenditure at Burdwan was due to the overhauling of night-soil vans and road watering cars, and to extra road watering and bustee clearing by reason of a smallpox epidemic. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division reported that an 1881 description of municipal drains as "elongated cess pools and the most filthy and disgusting nuisance in the town" still fitted in most municipalities, with a few honourable exceptions. The insufficiency of trenching grounds and the inefficiency of night-soil service continued to be noticeable, and Natore was particularly bad in this respect. On the other hand the collection of refuse by motor lorries in Darjeeling was proving

successful. Mymensingh increased its expenditure on drainage by over Rs. 4,000 due to the construction of masonry culverts, the repair of old drains, and the re-excavation of some main outfalls. In Dacca six connected public latrines were taken over by the municipality from the University, but in the city proper the substitution of old privies by privies connected with main sewers proceeded slowly on account of the economic depression. The drainage system at Comilla continued to be unsatisfactory, and an expert survey is required for the proper preparation of an improvement scheme. Chittagong increased its expenditure on conservancy by improving two night-soil depots and one public latrine, by engaging an extra lorry for the removal of refuse, by repairing sweepers sheds, and by improving the trenching grounds. Generally speaking, progress was slow, and until financial conditions improve there is little prospect of a rapid advance.

214. The expenditure on lighting amounted to Rs. 7,03,308. **Lighting.** Several municipalities in the Presidency Division spent nothing under this head, and Nabadwip reduced its expenditure by lighting its streets for only 15 instead of 20 days in each month. Asansol, on the other hand, introduced electric lighting, and negotiations for lighting were proceeding at Midnapore, Bansberia and Bankura. Consequent upon trade depression there was a fall in receipts at Howrah, and Burdwan imposed no lighting rate on the ground that its electrification scheme was not complete. Darjeeling remodelled a portion of its electric plant at a cost of Rs. 80,690, and further improvement schemes were in hand. A draft license to the Jalpaiguri Electric Supply Company, Limited, was gazetted, and the supply of electricity to the town and waterworks was expected to be taken up shortly. An electrification scheme for Dinajpur was hanging fire owing to the supineness of the Company concerned, and at Pabna progress were remote, the licensee having absconded after becoming bankrupt. Work at Serajganj was hampered by friction between the Directors and the Managing Agents of the Company, which was placed in the hands of a Receiver pending liquidation. Dacca increased its expenditure by nearly Rs. 24,000 on account of additional lights and the payment of pending bills. Chittagong also increased its expenditure, and raised the total number of its electric lights to 453; while Comilla completed the electrification of some of its roads.

215. Most municipalities showed considerable energy in **Public Health.** taking preventive measures to counteract the ravages of disease. Seventeen municipalities in the Presidency Division utilised with satisfactory results street refuse, road-sweepings and rubbish to fill up ditches and other insanitary excavations, and notices were freely

issued on owners to clear jungle and reclaim tanks. Inoculation against cholera and vaccination for smallpox were extensively resorted to, and anti-malarial measures were widely adopted in co-operation with Pallimangal Samities and other similar associations. A smallpox epidemic at Burdwan caused a considerable number of deaths, but the municipality took effective measures in conjunction with the district board, and by house-to-house vaccinations and chlorination of filtered water the epidemic was brought under control. The Bogra municipality was not so successful in dealing with a smallpox epidemic which was said to have originated in Calcutta, and had to take substantial help from the district board. An anti-malarial scheme was started at Raniganj with the assistance of the Public Health Department and with the help of a Government grant. The Narayanganj municipality took effective steps to remove water-hyacinth from tanks and ditches, and by reason of its large number of vaccinations only 4 deaths from smallpox occurred during the year. At Dacca there was an extremely satisfactory increase in the number of revaccinations from 7,719 to 21,620, while primary vaccinations rose from 4,905 to 6,305. Birnagar worked on scientific lines in fighting malaria, although lack of funds hampered progress to some extent. Berhampore opened one leprosy and two kala-azar centres, and treated a large number of patients free of charge. It also conducted an examination of the health of the children in its free primary schools, and reported the results to parents and guardians with advice to seek medical help where necessary. Kala-azar and malarial centres were opened at Chandrakona, and anti-malarial societies were formed at Chandrakona and Khirpal. With a view to safeguard the inhabitants of Chittagong against rabies the municipality destroyed 353 suspected and ownerless dogs by the administration of poison. The Food Adulteration Act was administered very unevenly. In the Burdwan Division it was reported to be more or less a dead letter in most municipalities. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division remarked that only 60 prosecutions had been reported, and that the laboratory at Khulna was not being made use of by neighbouring municipalities. The Act was employed very half-heartedly throughout the Rajshahi Division, where only 88 prosecutions occurred, no less than 50 of which were instituted at Darjeeling. The important municipalities of Jalpaiguri and English Bazar (Malda) prosecuted nobody at all. Throughout Eastern Bengal, however, greater advantage was taken of the Act. In Dacca 86 persons were prosecuted and 297 maunds of adulterated foodstuffs were destroyed, while Chittagong and Faridpur municipalities prosecuted 81 and 71 persons respectively. On the other hand, Mymensingh prosecuted only 23 persons, and only 4 sellers of adulterated food-stuffs were prosecuted by the important

municipality of Barisal. Generally speaking, district boards showed much more zeal than municipalities in this respect, and not a few boards complained of the failure of urban authorities to coöperate in the prevention of adulteration. The root cause of this is not far to seek. In rural areas the prosecution of a few shopkeepers does not affect materially the votes at local board elections. In towns, on the other hand, where retail trade is more intensive, municipal executives are reluctant to incur the displeasure of influential tradesmen by insisting on a high standard of purity in food stuffs.

216. Expenditure on public works during the year rose from Rs. 10·34 lakhs to Rs. 10·40 lakhs. In the Presidency Division there was an increased expenditure of Rs. 3,222, and an increase of 45·1 in the mileage of municipal roads, of which 22 miles belonged to Baraset. The problem of maintaining 29½ miles of metalled roads at Krishnagar proved of considerable difficulty, and a reduction in their mileage was under consideration. The Burdwan Division recorded a decrease of Rs. 40,173 under this head, due mainly to the restricted programmes of construction adopted by most of the big municipalities. An increased expenditure of Rs. 8,130 in the Rajshahi Division was mainly due to a larger outlay on buildings by the Darjeeling municipality. The roads of plains municipalities in this Division were reported to be mainly in a bad condition. In the Dacca Division an increased expenditure of Rs. 8,616 was largely due to the fact that Narayanganj spent Rs. 6,745 more than in the previous year, by repairing some roads and by widening and painting with colfix and bitumuls the municipal portion of the Dacca-Narayanganj road. The Chittagong Division was responsible for an increased expenditure of Rs. 26,402 on public works, and expenditure on roads rose from Rs. 47,657 to Rs. 71,312. This was largely due to the activities of the Chittagong municipality, which thoroughly repaired 5 miles of road at a cost of Rs. 30,992. The condition of the roads at Comilla remained unsatisfactory despite an expenditure of more than Rs. 10,000. Public works.

217. The audit of the accounts of all municipalities except Gaibanda, Gouripur, Madaripur and Chandpur was effected during the year by the Examiner of Local Accounts and his staff. A serious case of embezzlement in which the sanitary inspector and the municipal accountant were believed to be implicated, was detected at Netrakona and was under investigation. Petty frauds of Rs. 47 and Rs. 330 were discovered at Dainhat and Hooghly-Chinsura respectively, but in both instances the money was repaid by the delinquents. No other important defalcations were brought to light, but on the other hand very many irregularities, Audit of accounts.

some of a serious nature, were detected. Most of these could have been avoided by methodical office procedure and by proper attention to the Municipal Account Rules. Unfortunately municipalities are not disposed to follow audit instructions, and their replies to audit notes are usually very belated. When these replies are received they are frequently found to be of an evasive nature, with the result that the same errors recur year after year. Generally speaking there is too little supervision exercised by municipal executives, and an inclination to place too much reliance upon the office staff in respect of the keeping of accounts.

General remarks. 218. The general financial depression greatly affected municipal administration. Comparatively few bodies of municipal commissioners had the courage to adopt the necessary policy of drastic economy and strict insistence on the punctual collection of revenue, though in all divisions there were individual municipalities which proved by practical example that with determination and with proper control over the staff much could be done. The municipalities of Darjeeling district and of the 24-Parganas showed the best record in this respect. In very many municipalities there was definitely a reluctance to face financial realities: in a few of these the commissioners pursued a policy of reckless expansion without considering how the cost of that policy could be met: but for the most part the financial difficulties of the municipalities were aggravated by lack of enterprise rather than by any excess of it. There was in places a feeling that the financial difficulties of the people were an excuse for a general laxity of administration. The number of municipalities reported to have been mismanaged owing to party faction or the personal incompetence of the chairmen was not large: but more generally even than in previous years collections were bad, remissions were freely given, arrears were allowed to accumulate and outstanding debts were left unsettled. This was due in great part to a reluctance to exercise pressure on rate-payers who were already suffering from the depression: but, as was pointed out from several districts, another potent cause of feeble administration was the introduction of the New Municipal Act. This Act gave increased powers to municipal bodies: but the decision to hold new elections as far as possible simultaneously throughout the province had serious results in the collection of municipal revenues. There was a tendency for the sitting commissioners to refrain from taking strong steps as regards collection, for fear that such steps might lead to their being defeated at the polls: and in towns where elections were postponed, or where owing to legal difficulties the constitution of a new body of commissioners was delayed, it was hardly to be expected that the commissioners who were shortly to retire should have shown any great enthusiasm or energy. It may be said

that the only sections of the new Act which were used to any great extent were those dealing with elections and that the value of the Act in general was not tested: but it had been anticipated that there would be difficulties during the transition period and the advantages of the new Act were not likely to be appreciated until it had been in force for some time.

District Boards.

219. During the year 1932-33 the total membership of the 26 district boards in the province increased from 693 to 696 owing to the reconstitution of the Jalpaiguri district board with three additional members. Of this total 449 were elected and 247 were *ex-officio* or nominated members; 100 were officials and 596 non-officials; 34 were Europeans and 662 were Indians. Darjeeling as usual had a nominated official chairman in the person of the Deputy Commissioner, and in Midnapore and Bankura the District Magistrates continued to act as official chairmen. The power of electing its own chairman was restored to the Mymensingh board, and there were elected chairmen in all the other districts. The reconstitution of the Bankura board was delayed by the consideration of a proposal to supersede both the district board and the Vishnupur local board. The proposal was not approved, and the reconstitution proceeded subsequently. During the year 362 meetings were held as against 379 in the previous year. Of these 2 failed for want of a quorum and 13 were adjourned, as compared with 2 and 15 respectively in 1931-32. The highest percentage of attendance was 94·2 in Dinajpur and the lowest 61·45 in Jalpaiguri. The number of local boards was 84 as in the previous year. A change in the constitution of the local boards in Murshidabad district involved an increase of one member. Three seats on the Sadar local board of Midnapore, 2 on the Contai local board, and 1 on the Ghatal local board, were vacant due to the resignation or removal of their occupants, and were not filled during the year. As a result the total number of local board members in the province decreased from 1,386 to 1,376. The local boards held 686 meetings during the year, of which 4 failed for want of a quorum and 8 were adjourned. The average percentage of attendance was highest (98·30) at Khulna (Sadar) and lowest (36·11) at Nilphamari. Local boards generally continued to exercise their usual powers, but these powers are extremely limited, and owing to lack of funds and responsibility most of the boards had little to do. In a number of cases the control of pounds was transferred from local to union boards, and the general tendency as in previous years was to confine the activities of local boards to

District and Local Boards.

the administration of grants for village roads, the passing of bills for unmetalled road repairs, and (in some cases) the sinking of tube wells. Local boards exercise little supervision over union boards, for the officers of the former seldom do much touring, and the latter tend to look to the local officials and the district boards for guidance. Generally speaking, in districts where union boards have been established, local boards have now little importance apart from their being responsible for the election of members of district boards. As a result several local boards during the year under review deliberately omitted to hold meetings when there was no urgent business to transact, with a view to saving travelling allowance charges.

Finance.

220. The total receipts of district boards amounted to Rs. 1,52·15 lakhs during the year under review against Rs. 1,48·34 lakhs of the previous year. This, however, included Rs. 3,10,000 more under deposits and advances, than in the previous year, and Rs. 33,000 more under Government contributions, due mainly to subvention from the Road Fund. The total expenditure of district boards fell from Rs. 1,49·29 lakhs to Rs. 149·11 lakhs, chiefly under the head "Water-supply." The balances standing to the credit of district boards rose from Rs. 15·5 lakhs to Rs. 16·67 lakhs. The economic depression told more or less heavily on the finances of almost all district boards, some of which like Khulna and Rangpur had to adopt dractic retrenchment to avoid a financial breakdown. There was a tendency on the part of certain district boards to curtail expenditure on such essential services as water-supply and provision and maintenance of roads. This year also there was a tendency on the part of certain district boards, particularly in the Presidency Division, to over-estimate their probable income and to undertake large commitments, instead of following the sound policy of limiting expenditure and budgeting for a surplus to provide against any serious fall of income. Audit reports revealed some grave financial abuses on the part of certain district boards in the Rajshahi Division, and proposals for the prevention of such abuses have been sent up to Government.

Education.

221. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 21,58,246 and Rs. 37,51,798 respectively, as compared with Rs. 21·91 lakhs and Rs. 36·77 lakhs in the previous year. The receipts from Government amounted to Rs. 20,87,016, and the expenditure on primary education alone was Rs. 28,17,423. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by district boards was 51,372 as compared with 50,380 in 1931-32, and the number of boys and girls attending these schools was 1,412,455 and 394,562 respectively. The 24-Parganas district board maintained

23 free primary schools, and made a special contribution for the encouragement of indigenous games. It also paid Rs. 500 to Sanskrit tols for the advancement of oriental studies. The Jessore board maintained 50 primary schools, and the Biss scheme schools in Khulna district continued to function. The district board of Murshidabad contributed Rs. 50 per month to a high English school for girls. In Howrah 5 primary schools under the Biss scheme and 6 primary schools under the Griffiths scheme were maintained. The Midnapore board maintained in all 113 schools, and the Biss schools in Hooghly, Burdwan, and Bankura continued to function under the district boards. The district board of Rajshahi increased its expenditure by Rs. 24,387, but this was largely due to the resumption of payment of grants to schools in the Lytton Bridge area of Naogaon where they had been suspended owing to a dispute. The Rangpur and Bogra boards wished to retrench by closing their middle English schools, but were persuaded not to do so. A district school board for Pabna was expected to come into operation during the next financial year and the inauguration of the optional scheme in Dinajpur and Malda was under the consideration of Government. The Dacca board directly managed 205 primary schools and also maintained one model middle English school. In Mymensingh the number of the board's schools, including panchayat union schools, was 580 as before. The Faridpur board maintained 16 Biss schools, and the Bakarganj boards 50 model upper primary schools. Mohammedan education received attention from the Chittagong board. There were 53 industrial and technical schools maintained or aided by the district boards, and they imparted instruction to 2,127 pupils during the year under review. Among other industrial institutions thus maintained or subsidised were the B. D. Pal Choudhury Technical School at Krishnagar, the Coronation Technical School and the District Weaving School at Khulna, the Moberly Junior Technical and Industrial School at Hooghly, the Industrial School at Belur, the Medical School and the School of Physical Culture at Bankura, the Industrial and Music Schools at Vishnupur, the Weaving Schools at Sultanpur and Suri, the Diamond Jubilee Industrial School at Rajshahi, the Jackson Medical School at Jalpaiguri, and the Kasi Kishore Technical School and the Deaf and Dumb School at Mymensingh.

Public Health and Medical relief.

222. The expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 34,66 lakhs, out of which Rs. 13;83 lakhs were spent on hospitals and dispensaries and Rs. 17;76 lakhs on public health work. Government grants amounted to Rs. 13;85 lakhs. The total number of dispensaries maintained and assisted rose from 968 to 1,010. The system of charging fees, introduced in certain

district boards in the Presidency Division, was followed with success in the Rajshahi Division and quite a large income was derived from this source. The work of the rural public health organisations, for which district boards received grants from Government, was satisfactory on the whole, especially in controlling epidemics and carrying on propaganda. An experiment to control malaria by the use of plasmochin and quinine under the supervision of the Director of Public Health was launched by Government in the Memari thana of the Burdwan district. The work of anti-malaria societies which receive grants from Government was not very satisfactory in some districts. A noteworthy scheme, styled the Mathabhanga-Nabaganga Project, which is believed to have already effected great improvement in the sanitary and agricultural conditions of wide areas in Nadia and Jessore, was carried out jointly by the district boards of Nadia and Jessore with the help and guidance of the Irrigation Department. The campaign against kala-azar by provision of facilities for treatment in affected areas achieved good results in certain districts of the Presidency, Burdwan and Rajshahi Divisions. Special arrangements for the treatment of leprosy were made by the district boards of Midnapore and Burdwan, and by certain boards in the Rajshahi Division. Adequate and fairly effective measures including propaganda were taken by district boards for the prevention of smallpox. Other district boards would do well to follow the example set by the district boards of Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Pabna in maintaining female vaccinators, who did good work among "purdanashin" ladies. Action taken by the boards under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, appreciably checked the sale of adulterated food-stuffs in certain districts; but as pointed out by the Commissioner, Presidency Division, adulteration cannot be eradicated or brought under control unless deterrent punishments are inflicted in food adulteration cases. It is reported that district boards are somewhat handicapped in checking the evil at its source as the place of manufacture of food-stuffs usually lies in a municipal area and as the real offenders are frequently the firms which sell wholesale and not the local retailers.

Veterinary.

223. The increase in expenditure under this head noticed during the preceding year was maintained. The expenditure actually rose from Rs. 1,73,550 to Rs. 1,82,679, the increase being shared by all divisions except Presidency and Chittagong. Dacca Division alone showed an increase of Rs. 6,815, but only a part of this represented any real expansion in the work done, as the Faridpur district board had to pay to Government arrear contributions of Rs. 3,366 towards the pay of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons which could not be paid last year for financial stringency. Considerable

progress in cattle improvement, including fodder-growing, was made by the Malda district board. The importance of making sufficient provision for fodder was again stressed by the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, as the real veterinary problem of the province is the starvation of cattle. Intensive propaganda is the only method whereby the villager can be made to realize that he will not get good ploughing for his fields or good milk for his children unless his bullocks and his cows are well fed, and that his bullocks and his cows will never be properly fed until he grows food fodder for them. The public health demonstration and cinema parties preached this gospel during the course of the year, but a great deal of work still remains to be done. Many animals are at present allowed to die of starvation, and far too many are in consequence imported from other provinces. Certain boards paid considerable attention to the improvement of stock, and the Midnapore and Bakarganj boards maintained seven and eight stud bulls respectively. In Malda Rs. 570 was spent on the purchase of young bulls for stud purposes.

224. The decrease in expenditure on civil works noticed in the preceding year continued, and the total expenditure fell from Rs. 51·5 lakhs to Rs. 50·6 lakhs. Out of this total Rs. 29·76 lakhs was spent on communications, showing an increase of Rs. 49,498 over the expenditure under this head of the previous year. In general district boards showed a tendency to curtail expenditure under this head for reasons of financial stringency. There was a real increase of Rs. 75,996 in expenditure from district board funds only in Rajshahi Division; the increase of Rs. 84,819 in Dacca Division was due to expenditure against contributions from the Road Development Fund. In the Presidency Division all the districts reduced their expenditure on roads except the 24-Parganas which spent Rs. 9,988 more under the head "Communication New Works" than in the previous year. The reconstruction of the Jhenidah-Magura Road, for which a total allotment of Rs. 1 lakh was received during the preceding and the current year from the Road Development Fund, continued to make progress and a total of Rs. 55,948 was expended during the year on this project. In the Burdwan Division the decrease was shared by all districts except Bankura, the largest fall (Rs. 77,828) occurring in Howrah. The Jalpaiguri district board commenced the raising and shingling of the Madarihat-Falakata Road, with the object of providing an alternative outlet for the tea growing area to the west of the Torsa river in the event of flood damage by the Teesta river putting the Bengal Duars Railway out of action. The Administrator of the Western Duars Market Fund paid Rs. 12,000 towards the cost of

Civil works.

this project and arranged to contribute another Rs. 13,000 subsequently. Generally speaking roads continued to suffer from the effects of motor traffic, and it is doubtful whether the grants from the motor vehicle tax proceeds will provide the boards with sufficient funds wherewith to remedy the defects.

Water-supply.

225. The expenditure on water-supply decreased from that of 1931-32 by about Rs. 78,000, and amounted in all to Rs. 5,51,924. The decrease was shared by all divisions except Dacca and Chittagong. Even in the latter two divisions the increase was small. In the Presidency Division expenditure on original works decreased in all the districts except Nadia. In Khulna the sinking of 127 tube-wells was undertaken. In all 49 tube-wells were sunk and 22 tanks excavated during the year by the different local boards in the Presidency Division. The Burdwan district board excavated 1 tank and sank 51 tube-wells, 58 masonry wells and 1 ring well, and spent Rs. 10,770 on repairs as against Rs. 7,841 in the previous year. The local boards in Midnapore sunk 147 tube-wells, 19 masonry wells and 2 tanks. In the Rajshahi Division Bogra was the only district board which increased its outlay on rural water-supply and sank as many as 239 tube-wells. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division repeated his suggestion that allotments for water-supply should be distributed among deserving union boards so as to supplement what they are ready to contribute from their own funds. This would have the further advantage of enabling responsibility for upkeep of the wells to be definitely imposed on union boards. The Dacca district board maintained the water-works at Munshiganj at a total cost of Rs. 2,660. In Mymensingh 81 masonry wells, 51 tube-wells, 14 ferro-concrete wells and 2 ring wells were sunk and 8 tanks were excavated. Much of the money spent on water supply is wasted because the wells concerned are not periodically inspected and repaired. Other boards would do well to follow the example of the Khulna and Faridpur boards which maintained special staffs for this purpose.

General.

226. During the year under review most district boards felt the effects of the financial depression. The receipts from road and public works cesses declined considerably in a number of cases, and the boards in the Presidency Division recorded a total decrease of Rs. 1,26,767 under this head. In the Burdwan Division, on the other hand, improved collection produced a general increase of Rs. 50,444 in receipts from local rates, despite the fact that there were decreases in Birbhum and Midnapore. In the Rajshahi Division the district boards of Rangpur and Malda recorded large decreases of revenue, but the Dinajpur board improved its income by Rs. 19,868, and the district board of Pabna showed an increase of Rs. 11,000 in receipts, about half a lakh more cess having been

collected than in the previous year. The income from local rates accruing to the boards in the Dacca Division rose by Rs. 1,74,410, and there was a corresponding rise of Rs. 11,259 in the Chittagong Division. These increases, however, did not entail a return to financial prosperity nor did they restore receipts to their former level, and the exceptional economic depression resulted in serious curtailment of expenditure under certain heads. While the majority of the boards succeeded in weathering the storm without much disorganization of their activities in respect of public health and education and medical relief, they were only able to do so by the maintenance of recurring grants made by a Government as embarrassed as themselves, and in some districts at the cost of the diversion of money from "communications." The majority of district boards considerably curtailed expenditure on roads and bridges, and it is to be feared that this policy will result in future difficulties of considerable magnitude. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division, for instance, reported that sooner or later the capital expenditure required for replacing existing bridges would tax every board's revenues to the utmost; and it seems improbable that the allotments from motor vehicles taxation receipts will be sufficient in most districts to restore expenditure on "communications" to its former level. As regards general working it may be noted that, with the exception of Bankura, district boards remained unaffected by the civil disobedience movement of 1932. Their relations with the district authorities were generally cordial, and on the whole their administration was carried on with a reasonable degree of efficiency, despite the usual drawbacks of personal squabbles and party faction. Definite evidence was forthcoming of a determination not to be influenced by political agitation to the detriment of local interests, and it may be said that as a result of the year's working most district boards provided still further evidence of their usefulness. Much, however, still remains to be done in respect of efficient administration, and it is significant that two of the best-run boards had nominated official chairmen.

CHAPTER VIII.—AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND CO-OPERATION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1932-33.]

Administration.

227. Mr. R. S. Finlow, C.I.E., went on leave preparatory to retirement with effect from 8th April 1932, and Dr. G. P. Hector took over charge of the department with effect from that date.

Research and experiment.

228. The following schemes of research financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research were in progress during the year under review:—(1) Dacca sugar-cane seedling testing station, (2) investigation into certain problems of soil physics, (4) scheme for improvement of the trade rices of West Bengal, and (5) experiments on cane-crushing and gur-boiling. The scheme for fruit-research at Krishnagar has also been finally sanctioned and will shortly be in operation, and also a scheme for investigation into the costs of cane cultivation and rotation crops in certain districts of Bengal. The Universities of Dacca and Calcutta continued their research work also with the aid of grants from the Imperial Council for Agricultural Research.

Agricultural education.

229. Owing to continued financial depression the prospect of the establishment of the Dacca Agricultural Institute is still remote. At a meeting held on 12th August 1932 it was resolved by the Chinsura Bhutnath Agricultural School Committee that the school be opened with effect from 1st September 1932. The training of bhadrolok youths in practical agriculture at the Faridpur farm continued. Four batches of youths finished their training and started farming in lands granted to them in the khas mahals in the Madaripur subdivision. In the district of Bakarganj another such project was launched under the auspices of the Collector with the object of solving unemployment. Under this scheme 19 youths formed themselves into a co-operative farmers' society and undertook to cultivate 2,000 bighas of land at Char Fasson in the Bhola subdivision. Pending a decision as to the success or otherwise of the agricultural classes introduced in middle English schools under the Punjab scheme, no more teachers were taken for training at the Dacca Agricultural School during the

year. Fourteen teachers passed the final examination in December 1932, and sixteen new students were admitted into the school in January 1933. There are now 57 middle and high English schools which have started agricultural classes under the Punjab scheme. About 2,000 boys received agricultural training in the schools during the year. The total area of the school gardens and farms cultivated was 141·5 acres. On the whole considerable progress was visible. The primary schools at Kishoreganj and Burirhat farms for the training of the sons of bhodrolok and neighbouring cultivators made good progress. In view of the rapid increase in the number of pupils and the interest which the neighbouring cultivators are taking, the appointment of an additional teacher in each school is strongly recommended by the inspecting officer; but unfortunately nothing can be done owing to financial difficulties.

230. There are 26 Government farms in the Presidency. No new farms were opened during the year. Rice research was carried on at the Bankura and Chinsura farms financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The existence of the district farms has been fully justified by the introduction of new and improved varieties of crops such as sugar-cane, paddy, jute and tobacco, etc., throughout the province, and there are an increasing number of private farms which serve as a link between departmental farms and cultivators. **Farms.**

231. During the year under review there were about 228 paddy seed centres growing 8,877 bighas of improved departmental seed. The quantity of paddy seeds supplied during the year was 15,547 maunds, of which 3,287 maunds were supplied by the Government farms and the rest through the agency of seed-growing centres. Special attention was concentrated on multiplying seed through the union boards, notably with the help of the Collectors of Mymensingh, Bogra, 24-Parganas, Hooghly, Birbhum and Khulna. **Seed distribution.**

232. Sixteen bulls were maintained on district farms and 1,410 cows were covered against 1,122 for the previous year. Twelve bulls were issued from Rangpur and Dacca. As people were not very willing to pay for bulls owing to the economic depression, four bulls were issued on loan, subject to certain conditions, out of 24 sanctioned by Government. The premium scheme worked well. There were 30 premium bulls, and they covered 2,274 cows against 1,823 in the previous year. The system proved very satisfactory and could be widely extended. All farms in the province are now self-supporting for fodder; and silage is being regularly made at most of the farms. Napier grass is spreading very rapidly. This grass gave an average outturn of 1,788 maunds per acre on unirrigated land on the Rangpur farm, and the average cost **Cattle breeding.**

of growing it was 1 anna 9 pies per maund. Apart from Napier grass, juar, maize, imported cowpeas and various kalais were under demonstration. Large quantities of Napier grass cuttings amounting to 80,000 were distributed.

Agricultural Engineering.

233. The Agricultural Engineer, Bengal, was again mainly occupied on experiments in the crushing of cane and the manufacture of gur and sugar. Two centrifugals for demonstration of sugar manufacture were installed at Rajshahi and Berhampore farms, and complete factories were also installed for various private parties. The cane-crushing mill designed by the Engineer was further improved and gave better results. This year its capacity never dropped below 30 maunds of cane per hour, with a maximum of 44, and the maximum extraction figure rose to 74 per cent. Certain improvements were also made in the rab furnace. A power driven pug mill and an improved type of molasses furnace were designed and installed. In addition to these about 20 other open-pan factories were at work during the past season. Three large vacuum pan factories were also in process of construction, and should be in working order next season. Two irrigation surveys were carried out in Midnapore, and one scheme is in hand.

Sericulture.

234. During the year under review the production of disease-free seed cocoons from eleven Government nurseries aggregated 24,167 kahans. The selected rearers sold 24,585 kahans of seed. The sericultural industry in Bengal is undergoing a period of stress owing to continued trade depression and competition from abroad. Unfavourable weather conditions retarded the growth of mulberry plants as well as the progress of silk-worm. The selection of indigenous Nistari and Chotopolu was continued. The rearing of Mysore and Chinapolu was discontinued owing to degeneration in breeds. Eri rearing was extended in Bogra district. Special manurial experiments on mulberry lands with Niciphos in different sericultural nurseries were continued. Green manuring with sunn-hemp and indigo was extensively applied in all nurseries. The operations of the sericultural demonstration staff in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad continued, and the work of ex-students was properly supervised. Practical demonstrations were organised in 200 rearing houses in 27 villages in Malda to prove the usefulness of departmental measures. Outbreaks of disease were also prevented by timely advice and careful preventive measures undertaken by the demonstration staff. The co-operative silk organization in the district of Malda did good work. The silk produced by the 5-basin Mysore pattern reeling plant installed at the Piasbari central nursery last year is unquestionably better than the ordinary ghai silk, and this silk yarn has been sold at a higher price.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

235. Rainfall in March was favourable for preparatory tillage and sowings of jute and paddy in certain lowland tracts of East Bengal, but drought which extended up till the middle of April interfered with the progress of the operations. Subsequent conditions were favourable for field operations. Good rainfall in the latter part of May enabled the cultivators to proceed with further sowings, and benefited the growth of germinated kharif crops. Rainfall in June helped the growth of deep water paddy, and also the ploughing of fields and the sowing of transplanted paddy in seed-beds. Moderate rainfall during the month of July and August facilitated the transplanting operation of winter paddy, though more rain was still required in parts of North and West Bengal. Occasional rainfall and alternate sunshine in September and October helped the growth and final development of the transplanted paddy. During the first part of November heavy rain hindered sowings of spring crops in some districts. Subsequent dry weather in December and general rain towards the end of January proved beneficial to the germination and growth of the crops. Rainfall in February, though beneficial to late sown crops, was harmful to some mature crops in parts of West Bengal. On the whole the season was satisfactory for winter and spring crops and fairly favourable for autumn crops. Character of the season.

236. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1932-33 of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:— Area and outturn of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops.

Name of crop	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1931-32 in acres	Area cultivated during 1932-33 in acres.	Outturn for the year taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre.	
				1931-32.	1932-33.
Bhadoi	9,601,900	8,694,800	8,322,800	% 81	79
Aghani—					
Winter rice	16,442,400	15,571,400	15,590,000	100	90
Sugar-cane ..	199,700	233,400	233,200	86	94
Other sugar-producing plants.	58,100	54,900	57,500	..	..
Rabi	4,796,400	4,120,900	3,971,200	79	81
Total ..	31,098,500	28,675,400	28,174,700	..	..

237. The rainfall in February and March was favourable for the preparatory tillage, but the drought that followed and extended up to the middle of April was detrimental to the progress of Bhadoi crops (except jute).

sowings and reduced the area as a consequence. The rainfall in the latter part of May proved generally good for further sowings, and the subsequent rainfall encouraged development in most areas. On the whole the season was fairly favourable for the crops. The outturn of the different bhadoi crops of the Presidency was estimated at 79 per cent. of the normal as against 81 per cent. last year.

Jute.

238. Except during the drought in the early part of the season, sowings were generally carried out under favourable circumstances. During the months of June and July occasional rainfall with alternate sunshine helped the growth of the crop in West and parts of North Bengal. Some injury was done by insects. The area and outturn, excluding those of Cooch Behar and Tripura States, were respectively estimated at 1,611,200 acres and 5,088,800 bales of 400 lbs. each.

Winter rice crops.

239. Defective rainfall in February, March and April interfered with the preparatory tillage and sowing of broadcast paddy. Good rainfall in the latter part of May and in June helped the growth of the broadcast paddy as well as the preparatory tillage for transplanted paddy and its sowings in seed-beds. Moderate rainfall in July and August was beneficial to the growth of the crop. Occasional rainfall and alternate sunshine in September and October helped the growth and final development of the transplanted paddy, but unusual rainfall in the early part of November when the crop was ripe for harvest caused slight damage in some places. Heavy rainfall in December also affected unharvested crops in some North Bengal districts. Elsewhere weather conditions were generally favourable during the period of harvest. On the whole there was a satisfactory outturn of this particular crop. The average outturn for the province was estimated at 90 per cent. of the normal as against 100 per cent. last year.

Sugar-cane.

240. The weather was generally favourable during the early stages, and also during the period of growth. Subsequently at the time of harvest also the conditions were satisfactory except in the important district of Dinajpur, where untimely rainfall in November caused some damage to the crop. The outturn for the province worked out at 94 per cent. of the normal this year as against 86 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

241. The rainfall in October, though below the average, was adequate for the preparatory tillage and sowings of the early crops, but heavy rain during the first part of November interfered with the progress of the operations in some districts. The subsequent dry weather was helped to further sowing and germination of the crops. Towards the end of January seasonable showers favoured the growth and development generally. Rainfall in February, though beneficial to late sown crops was harmful to some mature

crops in parts of West Bengal. On the whole the season was satisfactory for the crops. The outturn of the different rabi crops for the province worked out at 81 per cent. of the normal as against 79 per cent. last year.

242. The weather at the outset was favourable in Bankura and the Tripura State, but unfavourable in Midnapore, Mymensingh and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Later on heavy and continuous rain in Mymensingh affected the crop in that district, but alternate rain and sunshine much improved the outturn in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Tripura State. Dry weather which prevailed after the third week of November was also favourable for the harvesting of the early crop, and a better outturn was reaped this year. The outturn of the late crop was also generally satisfactory. The total outturn of cotton (both late and early), excepting the Tripura State, was estimated at 21,312 bales as against 15,087 bales last year. Cotton.

243. The total cropped area is estimated at 28,174,700 acres this year as against 28,675,400 acres last year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the following table:— Area under cultivation.

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1931-32 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1932-33 in acres.
Rice	22,911,000	22,128,800	21,771,400
Food grains other than rice ..	1,925,100	1,579,900	1,505,700
Jute	2,310,300	1,596,700	1,611,200
Oilseeds	1,342,000	1,162,000	1,045,900
Tobacco	290,000	292,800	281,000
Sugar-cane	199,700	233,400	233,200

244. The harvest of winter rice and sugar-cane was generally good, and that of autumn rice was fairly favourable, but the fall in prices was due to the general decline in trade. Although the harvest of jute was much below the normal, the prices generally ruled lower owing to worldwide trade depression. Prices.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and the other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1932-33.]

245. During the year the building over the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's tunnel shaft exit in the Royal Botanic Garden Royal Botanic Garden.

was completed, and steps are being taken for equipping this building for the purpose of a refreshment kiosh. The work of construction of the river bank revetment which was handed over to the Irrigation Department has been proceeding with satisfactory results. The season was, on the whole, favourable for horticultural operations, but owing to late heavy rains, which spoilt the cold weather annuals, a fresh sowing had to be made. This, however, resulted in an unusually fine display of flowers in the early part of the warm season. Considerable improvement has been effected in the collection of orchids, while breeding experiments with some of the hardier varieties are in progress with a view to increase the variety and attractiveness of the stocks, and, if possible, to produce something of permanent horticultural value. Experiments of a somewhat similar nature have been undertaken wi'h *amherstia-nobilis*, a species which, in flower, is one of the most arresting to be found in the gardens. In the herbarium the usual work of acquisition, identification, distribution and loan continued. There was a regular supply of specimens for identification in connection with the classification of the flora of this province. Active exchange relations were maintained with botanical institutions both in India and also abroad, and in particular with those in China, Japan and the Philippines. The total number of sheets received and distributed was 2,246 and 1,402 respectively. About 6,046 specimens were mounted during the year, and general repair work including remounting covered 4,765 sheets. Some 1,467 covers were changed and 5,464 sheets incorporated. During the year the Curator of the Herbarium published several papers chiefly of an algological nature. He is now engaged in writing, in collaboration with the Superintendent of the Garden, a treatise on water plants intended chiefly for the use of public health officers.

Calcutta gardens.

246. In the Eden Gardens special attention has been paid to bulbous and herbaceous foliage plants, and the garden now possesses good examples of species of caladium, amaryllis and lilies. About a thousand canna plants and a like number of other ornamental and flowering shrubs were supplied to the Council Chamber grounds. About 100 specimen plants were added to the three gardens and 25 new plans were added to the Orchid House.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

247. Experiments are being continued in the garden for the acclimatisation of plants from other levels and reservation of their seed for distribution. Amonst acclimatised seed distributions were those of *cathcartia villosa*, *meconopsis wallichii* and *lilium nepalense*. Some 250 young trees and shrubs were added to the garden during the year, and 18, new flower beds were laid out.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1932-33.]

248. The total area under cinchona at the end the year was 2,717 acres. This is a theoretical figure and represents the area that would be covered if all the existing cinchona trees were small enough to fit the spacing and could be brought together and spaced as at the time of their original planting. The actual area occupied by the cinchona blocks and requiring cultivation and attention is greatly in excess of 2,717 acres. Extensions comprising 223 acres were carried out during the year under review. In the plantation at Mungpoo the temperature was normal and no damage was done either by storms or by disease during the year. The year was therefore well suited for cinchona in this plantation, the success of which counterbalanced the damage done to the other plantation at Munsong by nursery disease. Damage estimated at Rs. 30,000 was also done to this plantation by a fire which occurred in April from an unknown cause. An extensive land slide took place on the Kashyem division and Coolie Khet area, and this did considerable damage to two blocks. During the year under review 1,445,762 lbs. of Bengal bark were harvested against 1,179,472 lbs. in the previous year. Plantations.

249. The quantity of dried bark used in the factory during the year was 1,258,454 lbs. of which 1,137,066 lbs. were Bengal bark, the rest belonging to the Government of India. Altogether 46,220 lbs. of quinine sulphate were manufactured during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,721 per lb. Of this 3,981 lbs. belonged to the Government of India. The total quantity of cinchona febrifuge manufactured during the year was 25,023 lbs., of which 2,274 lbs. represent the share of the Government of India. The expenditure incurred on the febrifuge was Rs. 1,820 per lb. The question of the disposal of the accumulated stocks of quinine amounting to 22,228 lbs. of sulphate powder and 109,240 lbs. crude sulphate was under consideration during the cold weather, and a scheme has subsequently been formulated which is expected to improve distribution considerably and to co-ordinate supply and demand more satisfactorily than has been done in the past. Factory.

250. The total expenditure of the department during the year, including pensionable charges, was Rs. 3,95,372. The gross receipts were Rs. 7,60,225; and after deducting Rs. 80,714 due to febrifuge powder sales, Rs. 39,617 due to the Jail Department for distribution work, and Rs. 2,614 on account of sales outstanding on March 31st, 1933, the net receipts amounted to Rs. 6,37,279. Finance.

The expenditure was lower by Rs. 44,103 and the receipts higher by Rs. 42,318 than in the preceding year. The profit balance on the year's working amounted to Rs. 4,38,238, a result that was very satisfactory in comparison with those of previous years.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1933.]

Area.

251. At the time of preparing the revised working plan for the Sundarbans Division a shortage of 80 square miles of reserved forest was discovered. In the Chittagong Division 1 square mile was added by the reservation of khas mahal land, and the area of reserved forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division and in the Dacca-Mymensingh Division was reduced by 2 square miles in each case. The total area of reserved forests was thus decreased by 83 square miles, and the total area of protected forests was also 13 square miles less than in the previous year. As a result of these changes the total area of all forests at the end of the year under review was 10,583 square miles or 13·95 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency as against 10,679 square miles for the year 1931-32. There were no fresh reservations in the Northern Circle, but in the Southern Circle 1·09 square miles were finally settled. During the year the demarcation of 201 miles of exterior boundaries of new reserves in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Divisions was completed at a cost of Rs. 7,237, and in the two circles 1,260 miles of boundaries were repaired at a total cost of Rs. 9,820. In order to settle a boundary dispute with the State of Tripura a topographical survey of part of the Maini Head Water reserve was carried out by the Survey of India during the cold weather. No other surveys were made during the year.

Communications and buildings.

252. Although regular progress in the construction of roads is essential for the profitable extraction of forest produce, want of funds due to financial stringency prevented any such progress during the year. The only expenditure incurred was Rs. 470 in the Buxa Division, and this compares with an expenditure of Rs. 6,000 last year and of Rs. 12,000 in 1930-31. The total expenditure incurred by the construction of new buildings was Rs. 16,644 as against Rs. 34,910 in the previous year, and the cost of repairs to buildings was Rs. 36,918 as against Rs. 46,200 in 1931-32. Generally speaking expenditure was limited to operations that were absolutely necessary and could not be postponed.

Working plans.

253. The draft of a new working plan for the Kurseong Division was finally approved and sent for printing during the year. The revised working plan for the Sunderbans Division was also

sanctioned. The prescriptions of working plans were adhered to as far as circumstances allowed, and all deviations from them were duly sanctioned.

254. Departmental extraction of timber was carried out in the Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions during the year, but the market remained dull and sales from depots were very poor in Kurseong and Jalpaiguri. There was a slight increase in departmental sales in the Buxa Division, but throughout the Northern Circle orders for the supply of railway sleepers and the demand for departmentally collected fuel were both far below expectation. Messrs. Harsanath Bros. & Co. of Calcutta, who entered into an agreement for the extraction of a minimum of 40,000 cubic feet of "khair" trees from the Barojhar forest of the Buxa Division, extracted 14,447 cubic feet in 1931-32 and 26,389 cubic feet in 1932-33; but the total value of the year's sale of timber, fuel, bamboos, grazing, and minor produce in the Northern Circle fell from Rs. 5,09,234 in 1931-32 to Rs. 3,80,075 during the year under review. In the Southern Circle departmental extraction of timber was carried out in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division, but owing to the fact that the caterpiller tractor could not be used during the cold weather only 167 trees were felled as against 737 in 1931-32. Some of the logs were sent for disposal to the timber depot at Chittagong. Timber was also disposed of by auction at royalty rate or on permits as usual. The total value of the year's sales, including commutation fees, in the Southern Circle fell from Rs. 7,69,470 to Rs. 7,46,990. Utilization.

255. There was a further heavy fall in the outturn of forest produce during the year. The revenue, expenditure and surplus as compared with the previous year are shown below:— Financial results.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1931-32	16,94,479	16,60,534	33,945
1932-33	15,11,717	15,08,812	2,905

All divisions except Buxa, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar shared in the heavy decrease of revenue, which is attributable to the widespread effects of the economic depression. The Chittagong Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar Divisions ran at a deficit.

256. The total value of sales of forest produce was Rs. 11,27,065 as against Rs. 12,78,704 in the previous year. The value of forest produce granted free of royalty was Rs. 64,114 as against Rs. 60,721 in 1931-32. The total value of minor produce disposed of at scheduled rates was Rs. 5,06,784 as against General.

Rs. 5,18,222 in the preceding year. Four rhinoceros horns weighing 162½ tolas were collected, of which two were sold for Rs. 410 and the other two remained undisposed of. No haritaki (*terminalia chebula*), amluki (*emblica officionalis*), bahera (*terminalia balerica*) and ritha (*sapindus emarginatus*) were collected during the year, and in fact the quantities collected during the two previous years could not be disposed of at all and had to be written off as they had become useless. The total outstanding revenue at the close of the year was Rs. 1,94,903 as against Rs. 2,53,255 at the end of 1931-32. In both circles there was a decrease in outstandings, the reduction being Rs. 35,757 and Rs. 22,595 in the Northern and Southern Circles respectively. The total number of elephants on the stock list of the two circles at the end of the year was 24 as compared wih 25 last year, the difference being caused by the escape of the elephant "Dharampeari" which was subsequently killed by a wild herd in the Kalimpong Division. In the Northern Circle 2 persons were killed by wild elephants, and 4 by tigers and leopards. Sergeant Adams of the Calcutta Police was fatally mauled by a tigress during His Excellency the Governor's shoot at Rydak, and the fishing havildar of the Jalpaiguri Division similarly succumbed to injuries inflicted by a tiger. In addition 2 persons were badly injured by leopards, one person was seriously mauled by a wild bison, and a grass cutter was severely injured by a bear. In the Southern Circle 15 persons were killed by tigers as against 5 in 1931-32, this being the highest figure for the last 5 years. Rupees 275 were paid in the Southern Circle as rewards for the killing of 8 tigers, and the Collector of the 24-Parganas paid Rs. 385 in rewards for the killing of 7 tigers and 2 leopards outside the Sunderbans forest area. Thirty permits for shooting deer in the Sunderbans Division were issued as against 43 in the previous year. Vigorous steps were taken during the year to protect rhinoceros in the Torsa and South Barojhar forests of the Buxa Division. Special forest guards were appointed for this purpose, and Mr. T. V. Dent, Assistant Conservator of Forests, was appointed Game Warder of this area in addition to his own duties and was in charge of the protective staff throughout the year. Organized poaching of deer by large parties of tea garden coolies armed with bows and arrows continued in the Jalpaiguri Division, attended by the usual difficulties of detection and arrest. The revenue derived from the assessment of fisheries in the Sunderbans forest area rose from Rs. 3,489 to Rs. 10,518 owing to the continuation of assessment in the district of Khulna. In the Chittagong Division the toll station at Amlighat was managed by the State of Tripura and the station at Hungor by the Court of Wards Department. All other toll stations were managed departmentally.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

257. The activities of the department were mostly confined during the year to consolidating the position of the credit movement by the collection of overdues from village primary societies and by the reconstitution of bad societies. Fresh organisation of all classes of societies was almost entirely stopped. The economic outlook remained as gloomy as before, the price of the principal money crops remaining abnormally low. The number of societies of all classes fell from 23,777 to 23,667, *i.e.*, a decrease of ·4 per cent. as against an increase of ·4 per cent. in the preceding year. The total membership, however, increased from 817,760 to 819,728 or by ·2 per cent. and the total working capital rose from Rs. 16·33 lakhs to Rs. 17·16 lakhs or by 5·06 per cent. as against an increase of 3·4 per cent.* in the preceding year. The actual cash employed in the movement was Rs. 12·10 crores, the corresponding amount last year being Rs. 11·22 crores. Development.

258. The policy of slowing down expansion having been applied vigorously to the agricultural credit movement during the year, the total number of agricultural credit societies fell from 20,195 to 20,009. The number of members also decreased from 470,817 to 465,237. The total working capital, however, maintained an increase from Rs. 5,56 lakhs to Rs. 5,69 lakhs. The paid up share capital of the societies increased from Rs. 54·28 lakhs to Rs. 55·27 lakhs, but deposits from members fell to Rs. 19·83 lakhs as against Rs. 20·04 lakhs in the preceding year. The reserve funds also rose from Rs. 1,15·86 lakhs to Rs. 1,33·64 lakhs. The portion of the working capital owned by the societies themselves showed a further increase from Rs. 190·19 lakhs to Rs. 208·74 lakhs, *i.e.*, from 34·1 per cent. to 36·6 per cent., while borrowings from the provincial and central banks amounted to Rs. 342·24 or 60;1 per cent. of the working capital as against 62·5 per cent. in the preceding year. All fresh loans having been stopped as in the previous year, the total issue of loans by these societies to their members further dropped from Rs. 50·18 lakhs to Rs. 35·83 lakhs. The continuous slump in the price of agricultural produce rendered collection of dues more difficult, and the situation deteriorated in spite of the best efforts of the financing banks. Actual repayments by members dropped to Rs. 36·55 or 8·4 per cent. as against Rs. 46;87 lakhs or 10·8 per cent. in the preceding year. The overdues accordingly rose from Rs. 295·80 or 68·3 per cent. to Rs. 346·59 lakhs or 80·9 per cent. The situation therefore called for concerted action both by the Agricultural credit.

department and the banks concerned, and an elaborate collection campaign was organised and carried out towards the close of the year. Every assistance was rendered by the department in making collection successful as far as possible in the present circumstances, and the result is being carefully watched. In view of the present impasse in agricultural finance, the question of easy credit facilities in the shape of long term loans bearing a reasonably low rate of interest and repayable in small instalments has naturally come to the forefront, and has been engaging the attention of Government. The proposal for the establishment of some co-operative land mortgage banks in selected centres as an experimental measure has been approved by Government, and the details are now under consideration.

Agricultural societies other than credit: (i) Purchase and sale societies.

259. The number of societies of this class, which comprise mostly paddy sale societies, fell from 89 to 85, their membership from 12,394 to 11,468, and their total working capital from Rs. 6,81,627 to Rs. 6,61,249. The Central Paddy Sale Society, at Calcutta handled a lesser quantity of paddy and rice than in the previous year. The price of paddy being still very low, the society sustained a greater loss than last year. The Gosaba rice mills, which constitute an annexe of the Gosaba Paddy Sale Society, earned a profit of Rs. 3,416 in spite of the existing trade depression. The Bakarganj Sunderbans Central Sale and Supply Society earned a good profit, and the Donovan rice mills attached to it made a remarkable profit of Rs. 27,000 for only 94 days' working during the year. The mills have a considerable promise of future success when normal trade conditions return. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society sold 1,715 maunds 28 seers of ganja and 266 maunds and 1 seer of bhang during the year against 1,945 maunds 30 seers of ganja and 307 maunds and 19 seers of bhang in the preceding year, the fall in sale being mainly due to production of ganja in Bihar, as also to the general economic depression. The society, however, continued to contribute towards numerous forks of local public utility as before.

(ii) Irrigation societies.

260. The number of irrigation societies fell slightly from 933 to 932, and their membership also declined from 24,075 to 22,832. Of these, 917 societies are in the Burdwan Division. The total irrigable area served by these societies is 150,555 bighas of land.

(iii) Co-operative agricultural associations.

261. The total number of these associations at the end of the year rose from 36 to 38. The Naogaon Agricultural Association, which is the biggest of its kind, maintained a firm of its own and started a sugar factory to supplement the income of the

members of the ganja society who have been affected by the fall in the sale of ganja. The factory did not start work on a commercial scale during the year.

262. The number of primary milk societies rose from 267 to 269 during the year, of which those affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Union worked well though earning much less profit than in the previous year. The loss is due to a further reduction in the selling rate to keep even with the market, and also to a decrease in production. The milk movement in other divisions has not yet become profitable owing to difficult local conditions and to the wavering liyalty of producers. (iv) Production and sale societies.

263. The non-agricultural credit societies increased from 512 to 526, their membership from 182,510 to 188,532 and their working capital from Rs. 3,16 lakhs to Rs. 3,54 lakhs. There was also a steady increase in the paid up share capital from Rs. 69·77 lakhs to Rs. 74·94 lakhs, and in the reserve fund from Rs. 20·87 lakhs to Rs. 23·89 lakhs. Loans amounting to Rs. 25·9 lakhs were issued to members against Rs. 24·6 lakhs last year, and Rs. 22;5 lakhs was realised against Rs. 20·9 lakhs in the previous year. The overdues at the end of the year were Rs. 43·60 lakhs or 20 per cent. as against Rs. 37·48 lakhs or 13 per cent. last year. The total amount of profit earned during the year was Rs. 9·54 lakhs against Rs. 10·45 lakhs last year. Owing to adverse conditions these societies were not able to reduce their overdues, but in some instances their lending rates were lowered. The system of recovery of instalments of repayment from the salaries of the members contributed largely to the success of these societies. Non-agricultural societies: (a) Credit.

264. The number of these societies rose from 54 to 55, though membership fell from 10,252 to 10,141 and the total sale further declined from Rs. 2·81 lakhs to Rs. 2·58 lakhs. These societies were not on the whole thriving well during the year. (b) Stores and supply societies.

265. In the Presidency Division the Alamdanga Shoe-makers Society continued to work and earned a small profit. In the Burdwan Division the number of conch-shell makers' societies in Bankura fell from 5 to 4, of which two only worked well. The Illambazar Toy-makers Society was on a credit basis. It now proposes to carry on a loan business and to include persons other than toy-makers as members. The Gholsra Kansabanik Society in Hooghly ceased to work, and the Dubrajpur Kansapittal Society in Birbhum could not make appreciable progress owing to trade depression. In the Rajshahi Division the Dinajpur Tin-plate Workers' Society sustained a heavy loss. Of the two blacksmiths' societies, the society at Sutanara in Pabna worked at a profit during the year. The carpenters' and spoon-makers' societies did not work well, and the shoe-makers' society at Malda and the oil (c) Artisans' societies.

pressers' society in Rajshahi made no progress. In the Dacca Division the Bikrampur Patikar Society and the Santikutir Industrial Society continued to work at a loss, and the Mymensingh Industrial Society worked at a heavy loss. The Samlasir Carpenters' Society, however, continued to work at a profit, and the Shoogal Charmaker and the Barisal Charmaker Societies also earned a small profit. The Conch-shell Workers' Society at Dacca practically ceased work, and its relations with the Dacca Industrial Union did not improve during the year. In the Chittagong Division the Brahmanbaria Braziers' Society continued to work at a loss. A very large portion of its capital is still locked up as outstanding on credit sale, and the society will apparently have to be wound up. The Pathantuli Agrabad Rope-makers Society worked at a loss, though its activities were restricted to a loan business. The Mirzapur Potters' Society earned a small profit after reconstruction. The Amirabad Madhabpur Gur Manufacturing Society continued to work at a profit.

(d) Fishermen's societies.

266. The number of these societies fell further this year from 108 to 106, and their membership decreased from 4,153 to 3,914. The most important society of this class in the Presidency Division was the Captain Bhery Co-operative Society in 24-Parganas. This society managed to obviate its past difficulties with regard to possession, and earned a small profit after making up the loss of last year. The Ballavpur Fishery Society in the district of Midnapore could not make much headway owing to protracted litigation with the Narajole estate. The Naliapur Dhibar Samity in Katwa circle worked well. In the Dacca Division the Mymensingh Fishery Society sustained a heavy loss. In the Rajshahi Division almost all the societies of this type worked on a credit basis and most of them did well. The Dhaleswary-Meghna-Padma Society in the Chittagong Division continued to function at a loss.

(e) Weavers' societies.

267. There was a further decline in the number of these societies from 336 to 330 and in membership from 6,103 to 5,850. The Bagerhat Weaving Union, which is a co-operative weaving mill, could not do good business as it had to suspend work for about three months on account of boiler repairs. In the Bankura group the societies decreased in number from 56 to 48, and their financial condition was not very satisfactory. The new society for spinning and weaving wool and cotton at Kalimpong seemed likely to work well with proper management. The present economic depression has contributed largely to the stagnation of these societies, but the failure of cottage weavers to produce finished products up to standard specification and to bring out artistic designs is also responsible for the disappointing results.

268. The number of cocoon reelers societies was 77 as in the preceding year, though their working capital and profit rose slightly from Rs. 92,186 and Rs. 1,485 to Rs. 93,384 and Rs. 1,969 respectively. The silk industry continued its gradual decay owing to the competition of foreign silk, particularly from Japan. The Dopukuria Silk Society was badly affected by trade depression and did not work well. The Jangipur Silk Association, however, made a small profit. The silk societies in Burdwan Division worked on a credit basis. (*f*) Silk societies.

269. The Bengal Youngmen's Zamindary Society continued to work steadily, though no new activities were undertaken in furtherance if its object. The Mithasari Colonisation Society received a set back, as a number of members relinquished their lands and remained untraced. The society was therefore threatened with a heavy loss. The settlement of block No. I Badarkhali scheme in favour of the society was secured from the Collector of Chittagong, and 22 members out of 39 settled down in the colony. At present 390 acres are under cultivation. The society, however, is faced with difficulty in realising dues from its members owing to the very low price of paddy. In block No. II, the land reclaimed was surveyed and distributed amongst 105 members, of whom 96 were approved by the Collector. The total amount spent for development of the block was Rs. 50,003 of which Rs. 27,588 was advanced by the Chittagong Central Zilla Krishak Samity. It is proposed to form the settlers into a co-operative society as early as possible. The Zilla Samity has also decided to take up embankment work in block No. III comprising 1,400 acres. (*g*) Zamindari societies.

270. The total number of registered anti-malarial societies increased steadily from 865 to 927 and their members from 17,971 to 18,270. Some of these societies have done really good service in improving local sanitation. (*h*) Anti-malarial and public health societies.

271. The number of these societies remained at 8, of which the Nari Samabaya Mandir earned a profit of Rs. 993 by selling the goods made by its members. (*i*) Women's organisations.

272. The number of relief societies rose from 41 to 45 and their membership and working capital increased from 12,852 and Rs. 2,79,817 to 15,073 and Rs. 3,36,631 respectively. These societies are gradually becoming popular among wage-earners, who are appreciating the benefits conferred by such organisations. (*j*) Miscellaneous relief societies.

273. The organisation of these societies received a great impetus during the year resulting in an increase in their number from 7 to 19. Their working was on the whole good, particularly those organised by the Viswabharati at Sriniketan, district Birbhum. (*k*) Rural reconstruction societies.

(l) House-building societies.

274. The Mymensingh House-Building Society worked at a heavy loss, while the Dacca and Charfasson Housing Societies showed signs of stagnation. The Calcutta Subarban Co-operative Colony, Limited, built 9 houses and 5 more were under construction. It has now 63 building sites distributed among 60 members. The society is laying out a ladies park and has also started a high school.

(m) Bengal Home Crafters' Association.

275. The association continued to do useful work by including the members of anti-malarial societies to grow kitchen garden produce.

(n) The Bengal Co-operative Insurance Society.

276. The society was reorganised last year, and a good part of the year was occupied in effecting changes in the bye-laws and in details of its business procedure with a view to enlarging the scope of its activities. All preliminaries in regard to this were settled and the society hoped soon to make the deposit with Government which is required for issuing regular insurance policies.

Central banks.

277. The number of central banks remained stationary at 119. The resistration of the Borguna and Amtali Central Banks, which had not commenced work, had not yet been cancelled. The total number of affiliated societies fell slightly from 20,320 to 20,160, while their working capital rose from Rs. 4,95·75 lakhs to Rs. 5,13·72 lakhs. There was also an increase in paid up share capital and in reserve funds from Rs. 53·55 lakhs and Rs. 35·93 lakhs to Rs. 53·92 lakhs and Rs. 40·89 lakhs respectively. The total amount of owned capital was 18·4 per cent. of the total working capital as against 18·1 per cent. of the preceding year. Deposits from individuals rose from Rs. 2,78·70 lakhs to Rs. 2,90·19 lakhs, while the loans taken from the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank rose slightly from Rs. 1,20·39 lakhs to Rs. 1,21·38 lakhs. There was a further fall in the issue of loans to affiliated societies from Rs. 80·43 lakhs to Rs. 77·54 lakhs, and in repayments also from Rs. 87·24 lakhs to Rs. 75·97 lakhs, the percentage of repayment being 18·3 of the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year as against 21·5 per cent. in last year. The total collection on account of principal and interest (including anti-malarial societies and producers' unions) fell from Rs. 1,31·73 lakhs to Rs. 1,13·28 lakhs. The total profit earned by these banks also declined from Rs. 8·13 lakhs to Rs. 7·44 lakhs. The cost of management practically remained the same as in the previous year.

The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited.

278. The working capital rose from Rs. 2,04·84 lakhs to Rs. 2,19·50 lakhs, the paid up share capital from Rs. 16·53 lakhs to Rs. 16·68 lakhs, the reserve fund from Rs. 3·48 lakhs to Rs. 3·64 lakhs, and the special reserve fund from Rs. 7·02 lakhs to Rs. 7·20 lakhs. Deposits from the members and others

also rose from Rs. 1,77·80 lakhs to Rs. 1,99·17 lakhs. New loans made during the year were Rs. 39·45 lakhs and repayment by societies were Rs. 38·73 against Rs. 15 lakhs of the previous year. The bank maintained a standard fluid reserve, and gained the increased confidence of the public. Owing to a surfeit of funds the bank had to reduce the rate of interest on deposits of all kinds.

The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited.

279. The number of affiliated societies increased from 17,327 to 18,338, and the society did useful propaganda and publicity work during the year.

CHAPTER IX.—PUBLIC WORKS AND IRRIGATION.

Public Works.

Buildings and Roads.

Establishment.

280. The question of bringing the posts of the Executive Engineers of the Western and Eastern Electrical Divisions on to the scale of the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers with retrospective effect was under the consideration of Government during the year. Mr. S. C. Dam, Assistant Executive Engineer of the Indian Service of Engineers, was promoted substantively to the rank of Executive Engineer, and Mr. B. North was appointed Executive Engineer of the Western Electrical Division on contract for five years. The agreement in respect of the appointment of Mr. E. F. Watson, Superintendent, Governor's Estates, Bengal, having expired, retention of his services for a further period of 3 years was sanctioned on the execution of a fresh agreement. It was decided during the year that the cooling plant of the Legislative Council building, Calcutta, including compressures and fans, together with the staff employed in running the plant, would be placed under the charge of the Electrical Branch of the Public Works Department for the purpose of both operation and maintenance. The question of holding the post of the Consulting Architect, Bengal, in abeyance and abolishing the office of the Plumbing Expert, Bengal, as a measure of retrenchment was under the consideration of Government. On the recommendation of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee it was decided by Government that in future when the post of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, would be filled, no officer above the rank of Assistant Engineer would be appointed without the express orders of Government. The question of reduction of the special pay granted to Mr. A. N. Bose, Executive Engineer, for carrying out the additional duties of an inspector under the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Act, 1923, was also under the consideration of Government. During the year the 3rd Calcutta Division in the Presidency Circle and the Duars Road Division in the Northern Circle were abolished as a temporary measure of economy, and works of certain divisions were redistributed in consequence thereof. The 1st and the 2nd Calcutta Divisions of the Presidency Circle were designated as the "City" and "Suburban" divisions respectively. Certain Public Works Department subdivisions and sections were also abolished during the year. The

question of reduction of one of the subdivisions of the Suburban Division, and of the amalgamation of the Drawing offices of the City and Suburban Divisions with that of the Presidency Circle, as well as the amalgamation of the Drawing offices of the Central Circle and Hijli Division, were under the consideration of Government during the year.

281. The revenue realized during the year amounted to Rs. 16,85 lakhs, of which Rs. 15,76 lakhs were Provincial. The expenditure including communications (Rs. 31,33 lakhs) totalled Rs. 86,55 lakhs, including about Rs. 18,19 lakhs for establishment, tools, and plant. Of this total Rs. 5,93 lakhs were for central works, Rs. 11,22 lakhs for provincial works (reserved), and Rs. 44,63 lakhs for provincial works (transferred). Rupees ·52 lakhs were expended on contribution works, Rs. 5,15 lakhs on grants-in-aid, and Rs. ·91 lakhs on "60—Civil works not charged to revenue." Revenue and expenditure.

282. The following works were completed:— Central works buildings.

Certain additions and alterations in the post office and postmaster's quarters with subsidiary buildings at Gopalganj; rearranging and rewiring the electric installation in the east, south and north wing and replacing existing gas fittings at the Calcutta General Post Office; installation of two electric siren alarms with 14 bell push points on the ground floor of the Paper Currency Office, Calcutta; and rewiring the electric installation in the Photo-Litho Office, Calcutta. No other works were in progress at the end of the year.

283. Rupees 23·74 lakhs were spent under the head "Transferred" and Rs. 3·70 lakhs under "Reserved." Education buildings accounted for Rs. 3·33 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration for Rs. 6·72 lakhs, and buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other civil works for Rs. 17·38 lakhs. Of the several works completed the following were the most important:—Police section house at Burrabazar; second additional special jail at Dum Dum; conversion of district jail at Berhampore into a female jail and certain additions to and alterations in barrack No. 9 for housing the female jail warders and matrons; construction of an additional special jail at Hijli; extension of the Berhampore Detention Camp; removing plant and machinery of the Weaving School from their present position to barrack No. I at Berhampore, converting the Silk Weaving Institute into a hospital for detenus of the Berhampore Detention Camp, and strengthening the existing walling of the detenu wards in P. W. B. Nos. 12/32, 12/33 and 12/34 at Berhampore; erecting spare engines and compressors for water-supply to the detention camp and additional special jail at Hijli; Provincial buildings.

temporary military barracks at Pahartoli; temporary military barracks at outlying stations in the district of Chittagong; temporary accommodation for British troops stationed at Dacca; cookshed for the Hindu and Mahomedan convicts in the Central Jail at Dacca; installation of electric lights and fans in the second additional special jail, Dum Dum; installation of electric lights in the new and old camps and providing perimeter lighting for the detention camp, Berhampore; Moslem Institute in the compound of the Madrassa College, Calcutta; electrical installation in the new Moslem Institute; settlement peons' quarters and press shed in connection with the settlement operations at Rangpur; new record room for the settlement records at Rangpur; combined residence for the Settlement and Assistant Settlement Officers at Rangpur; new residence for the Superintendent of Police at Mymensingh; installation of electric lights and fans in the settlement office and press shed at Rangpur; electric installation in the Settlement and Assistant Settlement Officers' quarters at Rangpur; additions and alterations in the Registration office at Rangpur; provision of an unfiltered water-supply to latrines and urinals in the main block and Woodburn ward of the Presidency General Hospital; construction of record racks in the settlement record room, Burdwan; new civil court building at Asansol; additional buildings for the Serampore Weaving Schools; additional sets of quarters for the accommodation of the staff of the Agricultural Department attached to the Dacca Farm at Manipur; new electrical installation in the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, including nurses' quarters; and tornado damage repairs to the district jail at Mymensingh. A new agreement was negotiated with the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for the supply of electrical energy to Government installations within the area of their supply at reduced rates for 5 years from July 1932. The following works were in course of construction at the end of the year:—Construction of quarters for a sub-inspector in the police station at Arambagh; construction of 20 cells in 2 rows in the Central Jail at Rajshahi; additions and alterations to the Buxa Cantonment for accommodating detenus; reconstruction of the collapsed structures in the Mymensingh Jail; installation of lights and fans in the new residence of the Superintendent of Police at Mymensingh; and rewiring the electric installation in the new Physics laboratory. The erosion at Noakhali continued, and certain Government buildings were washed away in consequence.

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal.

284. During the year under review the Consulting Architect prepared drawings for fourteen projects, and where possible, regular inspections were made. In addition advice was given in connection with a considerable number of projects for which no drawings were prepared.

285. The total expenditure on communications during the year was Rs. 30,33,973, of which Rs. 1,50,070, was spent by the Government of India on central communications. The following works were completed during the year:—Reconstruction of the Calcutta-Jessore Road from Calcutta to Baraset; reconstruction of the Grand Trunk Road from Bally Khal Bridge to the Boundary of French Chandernagore; and widening the metalled width of the Grand Trunk Road from 138th to 149th mile at Barakar. In addition the following works were in progress during the year:—Reconstruction of the Diamond Harbour Road, which was nearing completion; construction of an approach road to the Willingdon Bridge from the Barrackpore Trunk Road to Hastie Road; reconstruction of the Ghosepara Road, a non-provincial road made over to the Public Works Department for reconstruction from the Central Road Fund; diversion of the Grand Trunk Road Between 56th mile, 3rd quarter and 57th mile, 3rd quarter near Memari Bazar; construction of a reinforced concrete bridge over the Teesta river at Teesta Bazar in the district of Darjeeling; reconstruction of the Pabna-Ishurdi Road, a district board road made over to the Public Works Department for reconstruction from the Central Road Fund; metalling a portion of the Chittagong Trunk Road from Mainamati to the Inspection Bungalow at Barkanta; and widening the existing metalled road from Comilla to Mainamati. Special repairs to the roads in the Northern Circle were practically completed. Surface painting of some of the roads in this Circle was also carried out during the year. During the year under report a sum of Rs. 25,150 was paid to the East Indian Railway for providing increased width of roads and footpaths on the Chandmari Bridge on the Grand Trunk Road. Communications.

RAILWAYS.

286. The following light railways are under the control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by provincial legislation:— Administration.

	Gauge. Ft.	Gauge. In.	Length in miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway .. .	2	0	51·07
(2) Bengal Provincial Railway. (Tarakeswar to Tribeni)..	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2	6	52·24
Total ..	..		200·20

All other railways in this province are under the direct control of the Government of India (Railway Board).

Surveys and construction.

287. During the year no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), and no new construction was made.

Lines opened.

288. The Calcutta Chord Railway line (9·34 miles) including the Willingdon Bridge at Bally was opened to goods traffic during the year under review.

Mileage.

289. The total mileage of railways open to traffic on 31st March 1933 rose from 3,489·96 miles to 3,499·30 miles.

Irrigation.

General.

Capital expenditure.

290. The total capital expenditure of the department during the year 1932-33 was Rs. 13,24,967 after deducting recoveries on capital account amounting to Rs. 26,873.

New projects.

291. The only important new projects under construction during the year were:— (1) the Damodar irrigation canal, (2) the Bakreswar irrigation project, and (3) the Madaripur Bil route. Construction on the Damodar canal commenced in 1926-27, and the project has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The work of construction continued throughout the year, and when the local cultivators applied for free irrigation on the occasion of a serious drought during the monsoon, which threatened a failure of crops, the canal was partially opened with effect from September 7th, 1932, with result that the harvest was saved throughout an area comprising 25,500 acres. The completed canal was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on 2nd September 1933, and it is expected that it will be of great benefit to the inhabitants of the irrigated area. The Bakreswar irrigation scheme, which was taken up in 1927, was also in progress, and the main

canal and six of its distributaries comprising a total length of nearly 21 miles were in operation during the year. The total area irrigated was 5,860 acres. On the Madaripur Bil route and the Lower Kumar river the construction of locks and sluices was completed, and they were in operation during the year. Their effect upon the silting up of the Lower Kumar river has not yet been fully determined, and is being carefully watched.

Important works administratively approved.

292. In the Report for the year 1930-31 a list was given of a number of major schemes administratively approved and awaiting funds for execution. Financial stringency prevented the taking up of any of these schemes during the year under review.

Revenue expenditure.

293. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to Rs. 24,40,231, of which Rs. 2,27,725 were spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore and Eden canals. The expenditure on the Midnapore canal was Rs. 1,56,012, which included Rs. 37,110 for maintenance and repairs and Rs. 1,15,571 for overhead charges; while the expenditure on the Eden canal totalled Rs. 57,864. The rest of the expenditure was on navigation, embankment, and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for the maintenance of the steamer and boat routes from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam, including the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta canals and Tolly's nala, to the cost of which the Calcutta Corporation contributes in certain cases. The expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern canals was Rs. 5,05,868 as compared with Rs. 4,56,972 in 1931-32. Reconstruction work was carried out to the Beliaghata, Narkeldanga, Chitpur, Manicktola, Alipore, and Ultadanga bridges, and the increase in the working expenses was due to the reconstruction of the Nowpara bridge, special silt clearance of Tolly's nala, and repairs to the lock gates at Chitpur. The expenditure on the Hijili tidal canal, the Sunderbans steamer route, and the Madaripur Bil route was Rs. 39,469, Rs. 1,02,176, and Rs. 2,41,919 respectively as compared with Rs. 34,709, Rs. 1,80,610, and Rs. 2,55,808 in 1931-32. The increased expenditure on the Hijili canal was caused by extra repairs to locks and by silt clearance, but the working expenses were again reduced in the case of both the Sundarbans steamer route and the Madaripur Bil route. The revenue receipts of the Hijili canal fell by Rs. 10,669, and that of the Madaripur Bil route by Rs. 40,211. In the former case the economic depression and the low price of paddy were responsible for the reduction. In the latter the governing factors were the depression in trade and the silting up of the upper reaches of the Lower Kumar river, which resulted in an early diversion of steamer traffic to the Barisal route.

Capital and revenue accounts (Irrigation and Navigation).

294. The transactions of the year are shown in the following statement:—

Capital Accounts.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1932-33.	Expenditure to end of 1932-33.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1933.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Works for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept.				
A.—Irrigation works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	80,51,475	13,29,401	99,98,739	−19,47,264
Indirect	2,54,102	10,916	1,28,973	1,25,129
Total ..	83,05,577	13,40,317	1,01,27,712	−18,22,135
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	83,06,728	..	83,06,728	..
Indirect	1,85,325	..	1,85,325	..
Total ..	84,92,053	..	84,92,053	..
B.—Navigation works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	2,49,49,000	−7,272	13,91,257	2,35,57,743
Indirect	5,26,000	6	46,325	4,79,675
Total ..	2,54,75,000	−7,266	14,47,582	2,40,37,418
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	3,21,17,279	−8,114	3,14,31,386	6,85,893
Indirect	3,36,783	80	5,71,306	−2,34,523
Total ..	3,24,54,062	−8,084	3,20,02,692	4,51,370

Revenue Accounts.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XIII.—Works for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept.					
A.—Irrigation works.					
Productive ..	10,151	5,476	23	5,499	4,652
Unproductive ..	1,12,940	1,55,612	400	1,56,012	−43,072
B.—Navigation works.					
Productive ..	..	..	..	..	..
Unproductive ..	7,23,169	11,37,752	6,686	11,44,438	−4,21,269
Total ..	8,46,260	12,98,840	7,109	13,05,949	−4,59,689

Receipts and Expenditure.

Receipts.

XIV.—Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

		Rs.
A—Irrigation works	.. .. ..	36,291
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	..	1,75,100
Total	..	2,11,391

Expenditure.

15 —Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

A—Irrigation works	.. .. ..	66,214
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	..	10,68,068
Total	..	11,34,282

Total receipts of the department during 1932-33—		
Irrigation works	. .. ..	1,59,382
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	..	8,98,269
Total	..	10,57,651
Total expenditure of the Department including capital outlay of Rs. 13,24,967(*a*) during 1932-33—		
Irrigation works	.. .. ..	15,68,042
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	..	21,97,156
Total	..	37,65,198(*b*)

(*a*) Irrigation works	.. .. ..	13,40,317
Navigation works	.. .. ..	−15,350
Total	..	13,24,967

(*b*) Includes Rs. 12,79,545 for establishment charges.

Statement of areas irrigated.

295. The areas irrigated are shown in the following statement:—

	Midnapore Canal.			Eden Canal.			Bakreswar Canal.		
	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of triennium ending March 1932 ..	50,038	..	50,038	20,047	397	20,442	..	..	..
For 1932-33 ..	28,136	..	28,136	17,956	621	18,577	5,855	6	5,861

Statement of length of canals.

296. The following statement shows the length of canals and distributaries:—

	Midnapore canal.		Eden Canal.		Bakreswar Canal.	
	Miles.	Feet.	Miles.	Feet.	Miles.	Feet.
Main canal (Irrigation) ..	48	3,960	27.5	..	20 (Main canal and distributaries.)	4,290
Branch canals ..	16	2,960	..	..	..	..
Distributaries ..	254.54	..	17.6	..	.	..
Village channels ..	30.43	..	..	..	..	..
Navigable channels ..	65	1,640	..	..	..	..

Statement of canal traffic.

297. The following statement shows the traffic on navigable canals:—

	Midnapore Canal.		Hijili Tidal Canal.		Orissa Coast Canal.	
	Average of triennium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33.	Average of treinnium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33.	Average of triennium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33
Length of open canals (miles) ..	67	65¼	49¾	49¾	54½	54
Receipts (Rs.) ..	30,679	16,185	62,514	57,562	26,920	23,656
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement (tons) ..	178,954	77,933	1,57,849	118,724	114,682	66,482
Estimated weight of cargo (tons) ..	24,120	17,367	42,500	42,799	30,417	2,700
Estimate value of goods (Rs.)	32,01,106	22,76,849	41,00,031	31,87,749	31,19,455	18,85,380
Estimate value of rafts (Rs.)	11,075	5,155	743	375	3,518	887

	Sundarbans steamer route.		Madaripur Bil route.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	
	Average of triennium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33.	Average of triennium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33.	Average of triennium ending March 1932.	For the year 1932-33.
Length of open canals (miles) ..	350	350	38	38	834	834
Receipts (Rs.) ..	68,595	63,202	2,88,582	1,89,910	3,90,929	3,85,653
Tonnage of boats by canal measurements (tons) ..	..*	..*	853,133	229,089	875,695	688,200
Estimated weight of cargo (tons) ..	..*	..*	1,002,065	645,511	654,035	647,094
Estimated value of goods (Rs.) ..	..	..	13,32,62,698	8,61,39,090	4,73,91,254	3,94,47,150
Estimated value of rafts (Rs.) ..	..*	..*	15,784	14,379	25,02,637	7,64,375

*Tollage is charged per trip of vessels. No measurements are made.

298. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by the department during the year was 1,241 miles. There were no additions, and the policy was continued of gradually abandoning those embankments which by experience have been found to be injurious as obstructive of the free discharge of flood water. In all $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of embankment were abandoned in this way, and it is hoped that the rate of relinquishment will be accelerated by an increased realization on the part of landlords and cultivators of the evils attendant upon the loss of fertility that results from silt-laden water being excluded from agricultural land. The expenditure on embankments and drainage works, including the charges for establishment and tools and plant, was Rs. 7,85,882 against Rs. 7,98,544 in the previous year. Embankments.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

299. The scheme was taken up under the Irrigation Act in the year 1927 and was in progress during the year under review. The expenditure up to the end of the year was Rs. 7,11,038 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 4,90,596, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 39,731. A revised estimate is under preparation. The main canal and distributaries Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 6A were in operation during the year. The total length of the main canal and the distributaries in operation during the year was 20 miles and 4,290 feet. The gross revenue and working expenses were respectively Rs. 10,151 and Rs. 5,499, the net revenue being Rs. 4,652. The total area irrigated during the year was 5,860 acres. Bakreswar canal (productive).

Midnapore canal (unproductive). Capital outlay.

300. No capital expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year under review. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,06,728.

Irrigation.

301. The total area irrigated during the year was 28,136 acres, of which 27,477 acres were irrigated by the Midnapore weir and 659 acres by the Panskura weir. The cash realization on account of water rates was Rs. 68,305, and Rs. 15,095 were remitted against Rs. 1,11,541 realised and Rs. 914 remitted during the preceding year. The total demand for water rates including arrears was Rs. 1,01,060 against Rs. 1,27,513 in the previous year. The decrease in demand is due to the fact that many of the lapsed leases were not renewed during the year owing to a heavy fall in the price of paddy, and also to a fairly well distributed rainfall during the year. The following are the chief reasons for the shortage in the realization of revenue during the year:—(1) The economic condition of the people was worse owing to the continued low price of agricultural produce. (2) The price of paddy was abnormally low and the market was exceptionally dull during the year. The cultivators being unable to sell their paddy, which is the only produce in that part of the province, had no means with which to pay the water rates. (3) The civil disobedience movement was also responsible to some extent for the reduced revenue.

Navigation receipts.

302. The navigation receipts from the Midnapore canal amounted to Rs. 16,172 compared with Rs. 21,986 in the previous year. The decrease reflected the conditions described in the preceding paragraph.

Financial results

303. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,12,940 and Rs. 1,56,012 respectively as compared with Rs. 1,63,433 and Rs. 1,87,615 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. (—) 43,072 as compared with Rs. (—) 24,182. Every effort was made to reduce the working expenses, and though some saving was effected in this, yet it was more than counterbalanced by the reduction in the revenue.

Minor Irrigation Works.

Eden canal.

304. The total length of the Eden canal including its distributaries and connecting channels was 48 1/6 miles. The total area irrigated from the canal during the year was 18,577 acres as compared with 18,220 acres in the previous year.

Salbundh weir.

305. The work was constructed on behalf of the Salbund Irrigation Society in the district of Bankura. No expenditure was incurred during the year on completing the remaining works,

as the society has not yet accepted the terms offered by the Government for the transfer of the weir, originally constructed by the society, to the Government. The area irrigated during the year was 1,938·54 acres.

Amjore weir.

306. The weir was constructed in 1927-28. A sum of Rs 598 was spent on the maintenance of and repairs to the weir and the canal against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 600. The irrigable area is 700 acres.

Damodar canal project.

307. The construction of the canal, which was started in 1926-27, was in progress during the year and was nearing completion. The project has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land, mostly paddy, in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. There was a serious drought during the monsoon which threatened a failure of the crops and the cultivators having applied for free irrigation, the canal was partially opened for that purpose with effect from the 7th September 1932. The crops in a total area of 25,500 acres of land along the main canal and the distributaries were saved, for which the people expressed their gratitude to Government. The District Magistrates and Collectors visited the irrigated area and recorded optimistic views on the utility and benefits of the canal. The following are the main items of work which were completed during the year under review:—(1) Right abutment of the weir. (2) Left abutment of the weir. (3) Bell bunds and revetments, left bank. (4) Bell bunds and revetments, right bank. (5) Under sluices. (6) Afflux embankment, right bank. (7) Approach embankment, left bank. (8) The head regulator. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 13,00,586 making the total expenditure to the end of the year Rs. 94,16,674.

Major Navigation Works (unproductive).

Hijili Tidal canal.

308. There was no capital expenditure on the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 61,016 and Rs. 39,469 respectively as compared with Rs. 71,685 and Rs. 34,709 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 21,547 compared with Rs. 36,976 in the previous year. The economic conditions, the low price of paddy and consequent reduced traffic were responsible for the reduction in revenue. The increase in expenditure was caused by extra repairs to locks and by silt clearance of the canal.

Minor Navigation Works.

Orissa Coast canal.

309. The length of the canal within the province of Bengal is 54½ miles. It is used for navigation and drainage purposes

only. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 25,923 and Rs. 19,737 respectively against Rs. 28,206 and Rs. 19,297 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 6,186 against Rs. 8,909 in the previous year. The reduction in revenue was due to the same causes as mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Gaighatta and Buxi khal.

310. The khal is a connecting channel between the rivers Rupnarayan and Damodar and is about 7½ miles in length. The khal has been leased out for navigation at Rs. 3,880 per annum for a period of 3 years commencing from the 1st April 1932.

Nadia rivers.

311. The total length of the channels of this group of rivers is 478½ miles. The rivers have been open to free navigation from the 1st September 1923. The maintenance charges during the year amounted to Rs. 54,976 compared with Rs. 62,185 in the previous year. Training is done in these rivers where necessary for navigation and sanitary purposes.

Serajganj protective works.

312. The work was commenced in March 1932 and was completed during the year under review. The total expenditure up to March 1933 was Rs. 25,727 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 25,300.

Rajshahi revetment.

313. The work was commenced in August 1928 and the total expenditure to the end of March 1933 was Rs. 20,573 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 95,595.

Bhagirathi river.

314. The river Bhagirathi from Dhulian on the river Ganges to Plassey comprises a length of 106 miles. Bandalling work from the Kaliganj entrance to Jangipore was taken up in the middle of October 1932 and completed at a cost of Rs. 7,649 against the estimated amount of Rs. 8,700. The bandalling was done over the worst shoals, and the period of training was from the 19th October 1932 to the 22nd December 1932, *i.e.*, for 65 days. Bandalling in the middle reach of the river was taken up on the 13th November 1932, when the least depth of water over the shoals was approximately 5 feet, and country boat traffic was maintained from Berhampore to Azimganj throughout the year. The cost of the badalling amounted to Rs. 3,560 against the estimated amount of Rs. 3,995. The lower Bhagirathi river extends from Plassey to Nadia, a length of 55 miles. No change in the course of the river occurred during the year. Only three shoals, viz., Dewanganj, Matiary and Rukunpore, were trained this year.

Bhairab river.

315. This river is 65 miles in length from its entrance at Lalgolaghat to Mukhtearpur where it joins the Jalangi river. It has three entrances, viz., Lalgolaghat, Asharidaha and Agriganj. No training work was done during the year.

316. There was no change in the course of the river during the year. On account of the improved condition of the Bhairab-Jalangi river in 1928-29, no training work was done, but the conditions at Panditpore, Plasseypara and Swarupganj deteriorated somewhat. Jalangi river.

317. There was no change in the course of the river during the year. The present entrance is still at Dayrampore as in the previous year. No training work was done in the river. This river is improving and its discharge is increasing. Mathabhanga river.

318. Discharge observations were taken at 4 stations, namely, Jångipore, Berhampore, Kalna and Hanskhali, throughout the year. The discharge of the tributaries of the Bhagirathi and the Hooghly were also observed during the flood season, and of the Bhairab-Jalangi and the Mathabhanga at Akriganj and Hanskhali throughout the year. Discharge observations.

319. The Gorai river was surveyed this year as usual. There was no change in the river. Gorai river.

Improvement of Navigable Channels.

320. The conservancy operations in the river Ganges between Rajshahi and Goalundo were carried out this year by the India General Navigation and the Railway Company, Limited, on a lump sum contract of Rs. 18,900 payable in three equal instalments. The total expenditure up to March 1933 was Rs. 21,190 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 22,828. As a result of the training works there was no interruption in steamer traffic during the dry season, and the steamers navigated the river without difficulty. Ganges river.

321. The bandalling works in the Mahananda river in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda from Malda steamer ghat to Godagari, were carried out this year by the India General Navigation and the Railway Company, Limited, on a lump sum contract of Rs. 6,300 per annum. Mahananda river.

322. There was practically no high flood in the rivers in the jurisdiction of this circle. The rainfall during the year was normal and evenly distributed. River floods and breaches.

323. The Rajapur, Burrojola, Howrah and Dancooni drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 12,259 compared with Rs. 14,322 in the previous year. No works were undertaken under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, VI of 1920. Bengal Drainage Act, VI of 1880.

Surveys and investigations.

324. The following investigations were carried out during the year under review:—

(*i*) Detailed survey of the Survankar Danra project in the district of Bankura—expenditure Rs. 48.

(*ii*) Survey of Ajoy canal scheme—Rs. 299.

(*iii*) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers and streams in the district of Birbhum—Rs. 769.

(*iv*) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers and streams in the district of Bankura—Rs. 841.

(*v*) Gauge and discharge observations of the Dolong river in the Midnapore subdivision—Rs. 119.

(*vi*) Survey of the Messanjore reservoir scheme—Rs. 238.

(*vii*) Survey of the proposed pick-up weir site below the junction of the Gandeswari and Dwarkeswar rivers in the district of Bankura—Rs. 275.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

Calcutta and Eastern canals.

325. The aggregate length of the canals, canalised rivers, and channels open to navigation is about 1,184 miles inclusive of the Sunderbans steamer route. There was no capital expenditure on the canals during the year under review. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 69,77,034. The total expenditure on extensions and improvements during the year amounted to Rs. 1,44,612. The following were the principal items of work during the year under review:—

Reconstruction of—

(*i*) The Beliaghata bridge—expenditure Rs. 7,800 (completed).

(*ii*) The Narkeldanga bridge—Rs. 12,754 (in progress).

(*iii*) The Chitpore bridge—Rs. 8,041 (in progress).

(*iv*) The Manicktola bridge—Rs. 2,274 (completed).

(*v*) The Alipore bridge—Rs. 75,519 (in progress).

(*vi*) The Ultadanga bridge—Rs. 43,207 (in progress).

The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 3,90,886 and Rs. 5,05,868 respectively, compared with Rs. 4,05,370 and Rs. 4,56,972 respectively in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs.—1,14,982 as compared with Rs.—51,602 in the previous year. The increase in the working expenses is accounted for by (*a*) reconstruction of the Nowpara bridge, (*b*) special silt clearance of Tolly's nalla, (*c*) repairs to lock gates at Chitpur.

326. There was no capital expenditure on the route during the year under review. The cost of maintenance and repairs amounted to Rs. 64,331 compared with Rs. 1,12,394 in the previous year. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 57,651 and Rs. 1,02,176 respectively compared with Rs. 58,101 and Rs. 1,80,610 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. —44,525 as compared with Rs. —1,22,509 in the previous year.

Sunderbans steamer route.

327. There was no alteration in the length of the route during the year. The total length of the route between the Madhumati and the Arial Khan rivers (including the Lower Kumar river) is 38 miles. A sum of Rs. 2,990 was spent during the year on the construction of locks and sluices on the Madaripur Bil route and the Lower Kumar river. The total cost to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 7,43,422 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 7,50,000. All the new locks have been completed and were in operation during the year. The effect of the locks and sluices on the silting in the Lower Kumar river is being carefully watched and has not yet been fully determined. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,95,715 and Rs. 2,41,919 respectively compared with Rs. 2,35,926 and Rs. 2,55,808 in the previous year. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 46,204 as compared with Rs. —19,882 in the previous year. The decrease in revenue was due to (1) early diversion of steamer traffic to the Barisal route on account of silting in the upper reach of the Lower Kumar river and (2) heavy depression in trade.

Madaripur Bil route.

328. The following dredging was done during the year under review. The dredger "Foyers" was employed in dredging the Lower Kumar river from the 10th to the 23rd October 1932, and the Attarabanka river from the 24th October to the 11th November 1932 and from the 13th December 1932 to the 3rd January 1933. The dredger "Alexandra" was engaged on dredging the Lower Kumar river from the 9th to the 27th January 1933. The other three dredgers, viz., "Ronaldshay," "Burdwan" and "Cowley" were laid up during the whole year.

Dredging operations.

329. Bandalling was done in the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga to train shoals with the object of maintaining a navigable depth of water during the low water season, and also for the purpose of ensuring a supply of good drinking water for the city of Dacca. The bandalling works were entrusted to the Joint Steamer Companies in the year 1929-30 for three years on an annual subsidy of Rs. 17,500. This agreement was renewed this year for another term of one year, and a new stipulation was made that, of the total grant, a sum of Rs. 6,000 should be spent on the improvement of the Bariatali channel. There was no abnormal flood in

River training works.

the rivers during the year. The low water levels also were normal. Some of the shoals, however, became very bad, and the training operations were able to keep the channels navigable for small steamers only during the dry season. The lower reach of the Baraitali channel was open to steamer traffic throughout the year. The effect of the silt clearance of the Lohajung river, which was done during the previous year, partially continued during this year also, and during the monsoon steamer traffic was maintained as far as Tangail.

Sanitary drainage works.

330. The Monikhali, Madanpur-Veragachi and Magrahat basins were drained satisfactorily during the year.

Surveys and investigations.

331. The surveys and investigations in connection with the proposal for opening a channel from Bhorasangu to Peshkerhat were completed this year at a total expenditure of Rs. 324.

CHAPTER X.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1932.]

332. The provincial birth rate for 1932 when compared with that of the previous year (calculated according to the census of 1931) showed a decrease of 4·3 per cent. The death rate also decreased by 8·1 per cent. Compared with the quinquennial average the birth rate in 1932 showed no change, but the death rate showed a decrease of 9·3 per cent. Thus the death rate showed a further decrease over that recorded in 1931 and was the lowest recorded since 1892. The rate of natural increase was 6·1 compared with 5·5 per mille in 1931. The birth rate in Bengal in 1932 was the lowest on record compared with that of other provinces in India. The death rate in Bengal during 1932 was higher than that of the North-Western Frontier Province, Burma and Assam. Two districts, Jessore and Calcutta, showed an excess of deaths over births. These two districts showed an excess of deaths over births in the previous year also. The infant mortality rate in 1932 was 178 9 per mille of births, and was thus higher than that of 1931, which was 174·0 per mille. The quinquennial average of infant mortality was 179·5 and therefore compares favourably with the corresponding quinquennial average of 1931, which was 184·0 per mille of births. The general death rates from cholera, small-pox, fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injury and other causes are shown below compared with the figure for 1931:— General health conditions.

	1931.	1932.
Cholera	1·6	0·7
Smallpox	0·2	0·2
Fevers	14·7	13·8
Dysentry and diarrhœa	0·9	0·8
Respiratory diseases	1·2	1·2
Injury	0·4	0·4
Other causes	3·3	3·3

333. During the year 1932, 478 persons were prosecuted in the rural and urban areas for failure to report births and deaths, and 356 of the cases ended in conviction. In rural areas the system of registration under which the presidents of union boards Registration and verification of vital statistics.

in a majority of registering circles have been entrusted with the duties of registration of births and deaths is not yet working satisfactorily.

Epidemic diseases: (a) Cholera.

334. Cholera accounted for 33,910 deaths in 1932 against 79,073 in 1931, thus showing a well-marked drop of 45,163 deaths or 57·1 per cent. decrease in the death rate. It caused 3·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 7·1 per cent. in 1931. The death rate from cholera in 1932 as compared with that of 1931 was lower in every month of the year except in January, and was the same in February 1932 as compared with February 1931. As compared with the preceding decennium this death rate in 1932 was higher in January, the same in February, and lower during the remaining months. The districts of 24-Parganas, Khulna and Midnapore suffered most, while among the towns Dhulian (Murshidabad), Rajpur (24-Parganas) and Patuakhali (Bakarganj) were more affected than any others. The total number of inoculations performed was 952,105 against 1,832,817 in 1931. About 186,615 sources of water-supplies were disinfected in addition to a large number of infected latrines, houses, ghats and dobas. The pilgrims to Ganga Sagar, Puri Rath-jatra and Kumbh mela were inoculated, as also the Haj pilgrims. Educative propaganda by means of lantern lectures and magic lantern demonstrations, by the rendering to local bodies of direct assistance by the departmental medical staff, and by a wide distribution of leaflets and posters, was intensively carried out against cholera epidemics.

(b) Smallpox.

335. Smallpox claimed 7,910 deaths during the year 1932. The death rate and the mean of the previous five years were 0·2 and 0·5 respectively. The desired standard of vaccination of one-seventh of the total population has not yet been reached, but during the year the proportion of vaccinations rose to more than one-eighth of the population, and many more operations were performed than during the previous year. In addition to supplying calf lymph the local Government spent Rs. 50,000 on free vaccination. Smallpox was responsible for 0·77 per cent. of the total provincial mortality as against 0·83 in 1931. From October 1931 smallpox was on the increase, reaching its maximum in May 1932 and declining steadily once again from June 1932. The highest mortality rate, 2·9 per 100,000 occurred in May 1932, and the lowest 0·5 was recorded against each of the months, September, October and November 1932 respectively. Compared with that for the year 1931, the death rate was lower during 1932 in the months of January to April. It was the same in July and September, and was higher during the remaining months. As compared with the previous decade the death rate in 1932 was lower in every month

of the year. In Calcutta the death rate from smallpox was less than in the previous year. Among the districts Rangpur showed the highest death rate. The respective death rates in towns and rural areas were 0·34 and 0·14 against 0·59 and 0·15 in 1931, showing a decrease of 42·4 and 6·7 per cent. in towns and in rural areas respectively. Calcutta alone was responsible for 57·4 per cent. of the total deaths from smallpox in all towns. Of the total deaths from smallpox 2·1 per cent. occurred among infants below one year and 5·0 per cent. among children between 1 and 10 years of age.

336. Fevers caused 691,513 deaths in 1932 against 731,784 in 1931. Of the total deaths from all causes fevers claimed 67·6 per cent. against 65·7 per cent. last year. The death rates of malaria, enteric fever, relapsing fever, measles and other fevers were lower, while that of kala-azar alone increased by 5·0 per cent. Fevers.

337. Malaria was responsible for 327,386 deaths with a death rate of 6·6 per mille in 1932, against 349,111 deaths and a death rate of 7·0 per mille in 1930. The number of deaths thus decreased by 21,725, and the rate shows a fall of 5·7 per cent. It accounted for 47·3 per cent. of the fever deaths and 32·0 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Fever indices when compared with those of the previous year show an increase in 17 districts and a reduction in the rest. The towns registered 2,857 deaths from malaria with a death rate of 0·81 per mille, and the rural areas 324,529 deaths with a rate of 7·0 per mille. Compared with the previous year the death rate was reduced in the towns by 4·7 per cent. and in the rural areas by 6·7 per cent. Of the 118 towns 46 returned death rates above the provincial urban average for malaria (0·8), the most noticeable rates being those of Kotchandpur (13·2) and Mahespur (10·8), both in Jessore district. During the year 9,031·3 lbs. of quinine were consumed as compared with 7,835·5 lbs. of quinine in the previous year. Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta, Khulna, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera, in which the fever indices had risen, showed increased consumption of quinine. The following districts showed a reduction in the fever index:—Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna, Dacca and Faridpur. Reduction in the consumption of quinine was noted against the following districts:—Birbhum, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra, Pabna, Malda and Faridpur. The average consumption per head of population was highest in Chittagong (3·6 grains per head) as compared with Jessore last year (2·9 grains per head). Experimental anti-malaria schemes continued at Sailihat in the Duars. Malaria.

Kala-azar.

338. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·21 per mille as against ·20 per mille in the last year. Compared with 1931 the deathrate in all towns was reduced by 10·0 per cent. and in Calcutta by 12·5 per cent. The highest mortality from kala-azar was 1·0, registered in Kalna (Burdwan district) and Chandrakona (Midnapore district) Municipalities. Of 118 towns 46 did not record any deaths from this cause. Kala-azar accounted for 1·55 per cent. of deaths from fever and 1·04 per cent. of the total provincial mortality, against 1·39 and ·92 per cent. respectively in the previous year. New cases numbering 105,840 were admitted for treatment at kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in the province, against 101,151 in the previous year and 110,017 in 1930. The number of such admissions reached its maximum (188,944) in 1925. There was an appreciable increase in the number of such admissions in the districts of Rajshahi, Murshidabad and Malda during the year. One hundred and eighty-five special kala-azar treatment centres worked in the various districts throughout the year and treated 43,196 cases. Government contributed Rs. 80,000 towards the cost of this work.

Enteric fever, measles, relapsing and other fevers.

339. The death rate for enteric fever in 1932 showed a decrease of 20·0 per cent. when compared with the previous year, and that for measles also showed a decrease of 33·3 per cent. In the towns the death rate from enteric fever increased by 10·2 per cent., while that of measles remained stationary. Of fever deaths 1·5 per cent. and of the total provincial mortality 1·0 per cent. were due to enteric fever, and 0·3 per cent. of the fever deaths and 0·2 per cent. of the total provincial mortality were due to measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever were 4,357 against 5,705 in 1931. No death from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. Other fevers accounted for 336,432 deaths with a death rate of 6·7 per mille as against 7·0 per mille in 1931.

Plague.

340. Only one death from plague was reported from the district of Hooghly during the year 1932.

Dysentery and diarrhoea.

341. Dysentery claimed 21,539 deaths and diarrhoea 18,023, making a total of 39,562 and giving a death rate of 0·79 per mille in 1932 against 42,764 deaths and a death rate of 0·86 in 1931. These two diseases were responsible for 3·87 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. During 1932 there has been a decrease in the death rate from diarrhœa and dysentery when compared with the corresponding figures in 1931. Howrah and Darjeeling headed the list, while Calcutta stood third, and Malda was again at the bottom of the list. The highest increase occurred in the Darjeeling district. The death rate in all towns was reduced in 1932 by 10·8

per cent. and in Calcutta by 5·3 per cent., when compared with the corresponding figures for 1931. In rural areas it decreased by 6·6 per cent. The highest death rate among towns was returned by Khirpai in Midnapore district.

Respiratory diseases.

342. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 62,249 deaths in 1932 showing a decrease of 0·2 per cent. over the previous year. Influenza and phthisis showed a decrease, while pneumonia and other respiratory diseases showed an increase during the year. Of the total provincial mortality 6·1 per cent. was due to respiratory diseases. The total number of deaths from influenza in the province, and the death rate, decreased by 1,249 and 22·2 per cent. respectively in 1932, and phthisis by 437 and 4·2 per cent. respectively. Pneumonia deaths increased by 559 or 1·8 per cent. and other respiratory diseases also increased by 1,025 or 8·9 per cent. in 1932. Although the year 1932 showed a slight decrease, the fact remains that within the last 20 years the deaths reported from respiratory diseases have been steadily increasing, until they are now more than five times what they once were. The increase has been most marked in the rural areas in respect of all respiratory diseases. During 1932 influenza accounted for 3,465 deaths, phthisis for 11,801, pneumonia for 28,158, and other respiratory diseases for 18,825. These figures, however, show only a small fraction of the deaths which actually occur every year from these diseases.

Injuries.

343. The total number of deaths from injuries was 20,075 in 1932 against 20,718 in 1931, showing a decrease of 643. Deaths from suicide decreased by 51, from snake bite and attacks of wild animals by 605, and from rabies by 246. Wounds and accidents showed an increase of 259. Injuries accounted for 1·96 per cent. of the total deaths in the province, and 1,606 of the deaths occurred in towns, of which Calcutta alone claimed 735, while the rural areas were responsible for 18,469 deaths. The number of deaths reported from all other causes was 166,999 of which 22,485 occurred in towns and 144,514 in the rural areas of the province.

General sanitation in the ports: (a) Calcutta.

344. The city and the port of Calcutta being free from plague there was no routine disinfection of the clothing and bedding of Asiatic and African crews and of the third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India. There were 420 hospital admissions of European seamen, and 3 deaths. The total number of admissions among European seamen for venereal diseases during 1932 was 33 against 62 during the previous year. Among the Asiatic seamen the police reported 223 deaths, 17 from dysentery, 21 from diarrhœa, 47 from fever, 1 from pneumonia, 23 from accidental injury, 91 from accidental drowning, 4 from poisons, 1 from murder and 18 from other causes. Ninety-nine

Asiatic seamen and boatmen were admitted to the various hospitals out of which 8 died, 2 from cholera and 6 from other causes. Altogether 10 ships arrived in the port with infectious diseases on board during the year.

(b) Port of Chittagong.

345. During the year 1932 a case of cholera and four cases of chicken-pox broke out in the vessels lying in the port of Chittagong. Two Asiatic seamen were admitted to the Chittagong General Hospital and three to the Assam Bengal Railway Cottage Hospital, one suffering from diarrhœa, one from influenza and three from other causes.

Public health laboratories.

Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

346. During 1932, 2,771 chemical, 4,657 bacteriological and 5,324 food sample examinations were made at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. Although the Bengal Food Adulteration Act has been extended to all the municipalities and districts, no other district board except those mentioned in the previous report has since opened a local public health laboratory. Of the samples of foodstuffs received from 15 out of 18 district boards and 44 out of 90 municipalities within the jurisdiction of the main laboratory, 2,818 from the former and 1,404 from the latter were analysed during the year. The increase in the total number of food samples received from various sources for analysis in the year under report has been 40 per cent. since 1930. Nearly 38 per cent. of ghee and 54 per cent. of mustard oil samples from the district boards, and 28 per cent. of ghee and 42 per cent. of mustard oil samples from the municipalities, were found to be adulterated. During the year 1932 the only noteworthy aspect of the administration of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act was the fact that inadequacy of penalty frustrating the object of the law was reported from certain areas.

Dacca Branch Public Health Laboratory.

347. Three hundred and fifty-three samples of water were examined chemically and 932 bacteriologically in 1932. Three hundred and thirty-six samples of effluents from the Dacca sewage works and 4,529 samples of foodstuffs out of a total of 5,667 were also examined during the year. Out of the latter 3,626 samples were received from the district boards and 1,251 from the municipalities. Of these 67·0 per cent. and 53·0 per cent. respectively were found to be adulterated.

Bengal Excise Laboratory.

348. Seven thousand two hundred and fifty-five samples received from bonded laboratories, the Excise department and the police were examined at the Bengal Excise Laboratory in 1932, against 6,646 in the previous year. Of these 6,088 were of spirituous medical preparations, 28 of toilet preparations, 26 of country spirit, 20 of pachwai, 2 of bakhar, 21 of brandy, beer, gin, rum, whisky and medicated wines, 29 of water for ascertaining its

suitability for reduction of spirit, 194 were instruments, 328 were of distillary samples, 516 of court case samples and 3 of a miscellaneous nature.

349. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the laboratory was 1,455,200 cubic centimetres, of which 1,001,690 cubic centimeters were issued free and 15,340 cubic centimetres were applied on payment. Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

350. During the year 1932, 20,322 boys and 1,204 girls were medically examined in 189 schools by 40 medical officers. The plans of 33 educational institutions were also examined and passed during the year. School hygiene.

351. About 106 dai training classes were organised during the year, and 1,212 dais were trained. A total of 838 certificates and 1,060 maternity outfits were distributed among trained dais. Dai training.

352. As in the previous year the only cases of infectious diseases were reported from the Ganga Sagar mela in the district of the 24-Parganas and the Nangalbund fair in the district of Dacca, which were held in the months of January and April respectively. The former was attended by 41,318 pilgrims, 14,318 of whom arrived by steamer and the rest by boat and road. There were 4 attacks and 1 death from cholera at the mela ground. At Nangalbund about 70,000 pilgrims attended the mela. There was only one attack of cholera at the mela. Fairs and festivals.

353. During 1392 plans of 14 new septic tank latrines and one activated sludge plant were approved. One thousand four hundred and four samples of effluents were analysed at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. As usual, health propaganda work was carried out in the mills, and instructions for the removal of the nuisances noticed were issued. Septic tank Latrines.

354. The continued and growing remand during the year for publicity officers and materials both for rural and urban areas was a clear index of the awakening of the "sanitary conscience" of the people and of the popularity of the publicity section. Though economic conditions and trade depression did not improve, there was nevertheless no dearth of health exhibitions. In spite of financial stringency popular demand led Government to sanction an increase of staff from 5 to 12 units. Each unit was composed of a lecturer, an operator and helper with a portable cinema outfit. These units toured in the interior of the districts visiting villages by turns in every thana. Two consecutive shows were held at every place, but in spite of this representations were received for repeat performances and for more lectures. The staff did on an average 20 to 24 days' touring during the month, but even so it impossible to satisfy the demand fully. Nearly 1,300 shows Educational propaganda.

were given and lectures delivered during the year as compared with about 500 during 1931 and 400 during 1930. Nearly 18 lakhs of people attended the shows. In addition the services of this section were requisitioned by the organisers of 71 industrial and agricultural exhibitions, of which only 40 could be complied with. The Publicity Superintendent produced one more film, 9,200 feet in length, entitled "Village Reconstruction series II," and he also toured the province inspecting the parties and lecturing himself. As in former years a copious supply of posters, charts and leaflets was distributed broadcast.

Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

355. Twenty-one health officers and 99 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities excluding Calcutta, the sanctioned scale being 21 health officers and 100 sanitary inspectors. All the districts were provided with fully qualified health officers, the Darjeeling District Health Officer having been appointed in February 1932. The Bengal rural public health organization scheme as described in previous reports is working satisfactorily in 25 districts. All the 575 health circles in the various districts except Darjeeling worked as usual with trained sanitary inspectors and a few assistant health officers.

Vaccination.

356. During the year 1932-33, 2,522,872 primary vaccinations and 4,162,351 revaccinations with a total of 6,685,223 operations were performed on 6,670,134 persons against 2,451,029 primary vaccinations and 3,091,571 revaccinations or an aggregate of 5,542,600 operations on 5,541,685 persons during the previous year. There has been an increase of 1,142,632 operations during the year under review. In all 291,920 children under one year and 1,470,997 between one and six years of age were successfully vaccinated. The total number of vaccinations performed was 5,574,367 in the rural areas, 908,267 in the municipalities and 202,598 in the factories, railways, jails, steamers and tea gardens against 5,072,522, 364,556 and 105,886 respectively in the previous year. It thus appears that there has been an increase in the number of operations in all areas. It is satisfactory to note that except Midnapore, Howrah, Khulna, Bogra, Pabna and Tippera, all the other districts showed an increase in the number of vaccinations. The increase in the number of deaths from small-pox is noticeable in Burdwan, Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Nadia, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Mymensingh districts. The total cost of vaccination amounted to Rs. 4,57,032-9-8 against Rs. 4,74,355-1-11 in the previous year. Including the recurring vaccination grant of Rs. 50,000 a sum of Rs. 1,60,056-6-10 was contributed from the provincial revenues

and Rs. 1,54,649-0-4 from local funds. The total output of vaccine lymph at the Bengal Vaccine Depot was 6,362,104 grains against 5,718,130 of the previous year. A total of 3,666,558 grains of lymph were issued. The total proceeds of the sale of lymph amounted to Rs. 11,412-12 against Rs. 6,280 in the previous year, and the total expenditure was Rs. 48,230-13 including overhead charges against Rs. 56,186 of the preceding year.

Sanitation.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, for the year 1932.]

Bengal Sanitary Board.

357. The number of official and non-official members of the Bengal Sanitary Board during the year 1932 was the same as in the previous year. The Board held two ordinary meetings, both in Calcutta. Four water-supply schemes were approved by the Board during the year, *i.e.*, extension schemes at Darjeeling, Kurseong and Khulna, and a sketch project for a supply at Bagerhat. The Board considered the report of a committee appointed to inspect the working of the "decentralised storage" system of water-supply newly introduced at Asansol, and recorded the opinion that the "decentralised storage" system of water-supply in Asansol Municipality was working satisfactorily. A copy of the report was sent to Government for information. The inspection reports of the Executive Engineers of the Public Health Department on the Dacca sewage works, the Burdwan waterworks, and the Midnapore waterworks were considered. With regard to Midnapore the special attention of Government was drawn to the question of reading meters and of starting a depreciation fund for the water-supply machinery. As regards Dacca sewage works the attention of Government was drawn to the need for better management of the works. The inspection reports of municipalities and the reports on the examination of the various water-supplies in Bengal were discussed, and necessary action was taken by the Board.

Sanitary engineering.

358. Under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, the construction of twelve schemes was carried on during the year. Of these, nine were new water-supply or water-supply extension schemes for Chandpur, Serampore, Hooghly-Chinsura, Asansol, Midnapore, Barisal, English Bazar, and Narayanganj (2), and three were sewerage schemes at Dacca, Tittaghur and Bhatpara. New schemes or improvement schemes of water-supply were prepared for Basirhat, Uttarpara, Nawabgunge, Dacca Central Jail, Serampore, Narayanganj and South Chandpur, of which four were sketch projects and three

were detailed projects. An hydro-electric scheme for Kalimpong, a sewerage scheme for Naihati, and surface drainage schemes for Navadwip, South Budge Budge, Sonamukhi and Krishnagar were also prepared. In addition 31 miscellaneous detailed estimates and plans were prepared for such small works as chlorination installations, drainage improvements, the Ganga Sagar mela water-supply, etc. Nine schemes sent in by other authorities were also examined and reported on, and the usual inspections of waterworks and sewerage works were carried out. A second scheme designed on the new decentralised storage principle was brought into operation at English Bazar. This scheme, as in the case of the Asansol scheme, has been successful in preventing waste of water without the use of meters. At Asansol the average supply (exclusive of road watering) is at the average rate of 8·2 gallons per head per day, and the people are quite satisfied with the amount of water obtained. The Sanitary Board has recommended that this method of water distribution should be adopted in all new schemes in Bengal. The total value of works carried out by the department during the year was Rs. 6,84,225.

Medical Relief.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1932.]

CALCUTTA HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

359. Forty-four hospitals and dispensaries including the Howrah General Hospital were working in Calcutta at the beginning of the year, and no new dispensaries were opened or existing dispensaries closed during the year. The 23 hospitals which provided for patients had 3,542 beds against 3,500 in the previous year.

Attendance and admission.

360. The total number of patients treated was 860,540 of whom 57,177 were indoor patients and 803,362 outdoor patients, as compared with a total of 801,150, viz., 55,063 in-and 746,087 out-patients in the previous year. The total increase of indoor and outdoor patients was 59,390 which was mainly due to an increasing appreciation of scientific medicine and the general popularity of Calcutta institutions. The deaths among the indoor patients in the Calcutta hospitals during the year were 5,944 against 5,897 in 1931, the death rate being 10·39 against 10·71 in the previous year.

Nursing.

361. The nursing staff of the Medical College hospitals remained insufficient as the Calcutta Hospital Nurses Institution on account of the financial difficulties stopped recruitment of

probationer nurses from January to August 1932. Owing to a considerable increase in the number of extra beds in this group of hospitals, great strain was put on already overworked nurses, but it was creditable to the staff that they coped with the situation ungrudgingly and in a satisfactory way. The nursing in the Presidency General Hospital maintained the high standard for which the hospital is famed. In the few other hospitals where nursing arrangements existed at all, they were quite inadequate by modern standards, as in the previous year.

362. The total income of the Calcutta hospitals under classes I, III and IV amounted to Rs. 34,27,302 as compared with Rs. 32,77,944 in the previous year. Of the total income Rs. 16,45,393 or 48·01 per cent. was contributed by Government against 54·77 per cent. in the previous year, Rs. 3,34,883 or 9·74 per cent. was contributed by the local funds, and Rs. 4,99,605 or 14·57 per cent. was contributed by the municipal funds. Subscriptions and donations accounted for Rs. 4,02,346 or 11·71 per cent. and the sum of Rs. 3,31,041 was realised as fees from paying and other patients. Finance.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

363. There were 1,178 dispensaries in operation at the beginning of the year. During the year under review 31 new dispensaries were opened and 9 closed: thus the total number of dispensaries at the end of the year was 1,200. Besides these permanent institutions, there were several other temporary dispensaries which gave medical relief during epidemics in particular areas and on the occasions of hats, melas and fairs. Certain itinerant and subsidised dispensaries were also in operation in the mufassal as in previous years. Dispensaries following systems of medicine other than Allopathic comprised 64 Homœopathic, 15 Ayurvedic and 5 Unani as compared with 67, 19 and 9 respectively during the previous year. Number of institutions.

364. The total number of beds in the district hospitals rose from 5,751 to 5,791, of which 4,355 were for male patients and 1,436 for female patients. Number of beds.

365. The total number of patients, indoor and outdoor, treated in all classes of dispensaries stood at 9,083,248 against 9,190,434 in 1931. Attendance.

366. No noticeable improvement was made in the nursing arrangements existing in the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, which in most cases are inadequate and unsatisfactory. At the Imambara hospital at Hooghly and at the Sadar hospitals at Berhampore, Dacca, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Darjeeling both Nursing.

European and Indian nurses were employed, while at the Sadar hospital at Krishnagar a Sister of Charity of the Roman Catholic Mission and a nurse did the work. The failure to improve the existing arrangements, which were very unsatisfactory, is to be ascribed chiefly to lack of funds and the general economic depression.

Disease.

367. Malaria, as usual, accounted for the largest number of patients treated, viz., 2,726,313 against 2,697,076 in the previous year, though the rate of mortality showed a considerable decrease. The number of kala-azar patients fell from 60,083 to 55,763. The number of patients treated for beri-beri showed a sudden increase, viz., 5,436 against 1,349 in 1931, and the number of patients treated for leprosy rose from 3,225 to 4,163. The number of cases suffering from cholera, dysentery, influenza, smallpox, tuberculosis of the lung, and venereal diseases showed a decline.

Finance.

368. The total income of classes I, III and IV dispensaries, excluding the opening balance amounted to Rs. 26,87,279 as compared with Rs. 24,25,479 in the preceding year. The largest income as usual was derived from local funds, viz., Rs. 13,04,676 or 48·55 per cent. against 51·02 per cent. in 1931. The Government contribution amounted to 11·46 per cent. against 14·86 per cent. in the previous year. The municipal contribution amounted to 10·88 per cent. and subscriptions and donations formed 12·07 per cent. as compared with 11·48 per cent. in the previous year. The cost of upkeep of the hospitals and dispensaries under classes I, III and IV excluding investments amounted to Rs. 24,18,965 as compared with Rs. 23,27,682 in 1931.

EDEN SANITARIUM, DARJEELING.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1932.]

General.

369. The Eden Sanitarium and Hospital were founded for the benefit of Europeans who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention required when overtaken by sickness or accidents.

Number of patients.

370. During the year 1932 the sanitarium was open from March 15th to November 15th, and the hospital from January 1st to December 31st. The number of admissions rose from 277 in 1931 to 306 in 1932, but the figure was still far below the 1927 total of 547. The number of patients treated in the hospital decreased from 90 to 83, of whom 71 were cured, 6 were relieved, 1 was discharged, 2 died, and 1 remained under treatment at the end of the year.

371. Thanks to a special grant of Rs. 29,140 made by Government the disastrous financial condition of the sanitarium in 1931 was converted into a more satisfactory one by the beginning of 1932. In March 1932 the absconding head clerk, who had defalcated a large sum of money, was arrested and prosecuted; and as a result of the trial he was sentenced to an aggregate of 5½ years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,500. The financial condition of the sanitarium during 1932, however, again deteriorated and there was a deficit of no less than Rs. 4,552 on the year's working, while for the period November 1st, 1932 to March 31st, 1933 there was a total loss of Rs. 5,742. On April 1st, 1933 the credit cash balance stood at only Rs. 1,751. The economic depression was the root cause of this state of affairs. Fewer visitors to Darjeeling and lack of prosperity in the tea industry resulted in a reduction in the number of patients as compared with previous years; and if the position deteriorates much further it would seem that the question of closing the sanitarium altogether must inevitably arise. Finance.

The Poisons Act.

372. Five thousand three hundred and twenty licenses were current during the year throughout the Presidency (excluding Calcutta) as against 3,259 in the previous year, an increase of 2,061 licences. In Calcutta 506 licences were renewed and 38 fresh licences issued, making a total of 544 against 682 licences current in the preceding year, a decrease of 138 licences. During the year there were 15 prosecutions under the Act, of which 3 were in Calcutta and the remainder in the mufassal. In the latter cases 3 ended in conviction and 2 were still pending, while in Calcutta 2 ended in conviction. There were 13 cases of cattle poisoning, viz., 4 in Tippera, 3 in 24-Parganas and 6 in Jessore. In Tippera all the cases ended in conviction. In 24-Parganas 2 cases out of 3, and in Jessore 4 out of 6 ended in conviction.

Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for the year ending 30th June 1933.]

373. There was a still further decrease in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year under review, recruitment being curtailed owing to the general economic depression. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was 56 as against 97 in the previous year. Of these 13 came from Birbhum and the rest from Midnapore. The total number of Inland emigration.

recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 569, including those recruited in the Bombay Presidency outside the Act, as compared with 1,522 in the previous year. During the year under report no emigrant was despatched to the Assam Valley *via* the Goalundo route, as against 1,027 in the previous year. The reason for this apparently was that the railway route *via* Amingaon proved to be the quickest and was adopted for the conveyance of emigrants destined for the tea gardens in Assam proper. The number of garden sardars employed during the year was 13 (including 3 sardarnis) as against 60 and 100 in the two previous years. All worked under the control of licensed local agents, who were 15 in number. The rest houses for emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur, Naihati and Goalundo maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association were frequently inspected and their condition was found to be in all respects satisfactory. Of the 51,193 emigrants who halted at Naihati 12,926 went to the Dooars and the rest with the exception of one mentioned below went to Assam, Cachar and Sylhet *via* Amingaon and Goalundo. Out of the total number of emigrants who arrived from the different recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal, two deaths, one from smallpox and the other from diarrhœa, and one desertion occurred amongst the emigrants during their halt at Asansol, and one desertion among the emigrants at Naihati. No other death or desertion occurred amongst the emigrants in transit. As in the previous year there was no desertion or death among the emigrants during their journey from Goalundo to their final destinations. In connection with the transport of labour to Assam both receipts and expenditure increased from Rs. 700 to Rs. 950 and from Rs. 7,544-6 to Rs. 7,748-5 respectively, as compared with the previous year.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, and the rules framed thereunder, for the year ending 31st December 1932.]

Foreign emigration.

374. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under review.

Repatriation to India.

375. During the year a total number of 1,375 repatriates embarked from the Union of South Africa and the colonies of Trinidad, British Guiana, Fiji, and Mauritius to return to India as against 1,357 in the previous year. Of this number, 15 died on the voyage as against 9 deaths during the previous year and 1,360 disembarked. Of the 15 deaths which occurred 12 took place on board the SS. "Ganges" among persons returning from British Guiana and Trinidad, one occurred on the return voyage from Fiji, and 2 on board the SS. "Umona" returning from the Union

of South Africa. The percentage of deaths during the year increased to 1·09 from ·66 per cent. in the previous year. The cause of death among the majority of the deceased returning emigrants was generally ascribable to their very poor constitution due to old age or infirmity, which made it hard for them to bear the sudden and varied change of climate after leaving the colonies. The general health of the returning emigrants during the voyages was good and no infectious disease occurred amongst them. There were, however, among the repatriates 42 lepers from Fiji and 9 from British Guiana as against 18 lepers from Trinidad last year, and 1 leper from Fiji in 1930.

CHAPTER XI—EDUCATION.

General System of Public Instruction.

Educational institutions.

376. During the year under review the number of recognised institutions increased by 1,367 with an increase of 77,326 pupils. The number of unrecognised institutions fell from 1,630 to 1,554, but the pupils reading in them increased from 63,164, to 65,704. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 4,17 lakhs against Rs. 4,22 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows the rise and fall of expenditure under different heads:—

Year.	Provincial revenues.	District boards.	Municipal funds.	Fees.	Other private sources.
	Lakhs.				
1931-32 ..	144·46	16·48	15·04	180·02	66·84
1932-33 ..	135·21	17·09	15·57	182·65	66·98

University and collegiate education.

377. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hasan Suhrawardy, K.T., O.B.E., M.D., was re-appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University for another term of 2 years from 8th August 1932. In December 1932, the University of Calcutta accepted an offer of Rs. 1,50,000 in Government Promissory notes from Dr. H. C. Mookherji, M.A., P.H.D., for creating an endowment for the purpose of sending properly qualified Bengali Protestant Christian students abroad. At the request of the Government of Assam the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, was authorised by this Government to act on behalf of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, when educational matters relating to that province come up for consideration by the Syndicate. At Dacca Professor G. H. Langley, M.A., I.E.S., continued to be the Vice-Chancellor of the University. The department of physical education in that University was reorganised. In the Calcutta University the number of University students (excluding undergraduate students in Commerce classes) showed a slight fall from 1,144 in 1931-32 to 1,141 in 1932-33. The number of women students, however, rose from 26 to 52. In the Dacca University the number of students in the year under review was 716

including 24 women students, against 719 in the previous year. The number of law students in the Dacca University fell considerably. The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca, completed the thirteenth year of its existence. The Retrenchment Committee, 1932, recommended that the post of the Chairman of the Board should be honorary, and Government have accepted this in principle. During the year under review the total number of arts colleges rose from 49 to 51, of which 45 were for men and 6 for women. The starting of intermediate classes in the Victoria Institution, Calcutta, and the creation of the women's department of the Vidyasagar College, Calcutta, as a separate unit, accounted for the increase. Of the 45 arts colleges for men 10 were maintained by Government and 35 were privately managed, 20 of the latter being subsidised by Government. Though the student roll-strength of these colleges increased from 19,744 in 1931-32 to 20,867, the total cost of maintaining them fell from Rs. 35,39,603 to Rs. 34,05,449 during the year under review. A sum of Rs. 1,99,330 was disbursed by the Education Department in 1932-33 in giving grants to private colleges. On account of financial stringency the distribution of the grant of Rs. 1,29,000 which is given on the recommendation of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to non-Government colleges for the improvement of libraries, laboratories, etc., was not made. For the same reason the maintenance grants to private colleges were reduced by 10 per cent.

Secondary education.

378. During the year under review there was an increase of 4,503 in the number of pupils in secondary schools, although the number of schools decreased from 3,123 to 3,121. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 32·6 and of maintaining a school Rs. 4,776·2 during the year. The tendency to convert middle English schools into high schools of doubtful efficiency still continues.

Primary education.

379. There were 44,633 primary schools for Indian boys in 1932-33, and on March 31st, 1933, 1,725,040 pupils (including 104,939 girls) were registered in them. Besides these, the primary classes of secondary schools had 179,511 pupils. There was a total increase of 38,092 pupils in the year under report, which is satisfactory in view of the present economic depression. The percentage of boys under instruction in primary schools to the total number of boys of school-going age was 49, which shows an increase of 8·2 per cent. over the previous year's statistics. On the 31st March 1933 the primary schools were attended by 740,369 Hindus and 969,413 Muhammadans. The percentages of Hindu and Muhammadan pupils to the total Hindu and Muhammadan male population were 6·5 and 6·8 respectively. The total cost of maintaining

the schools amounted to Rs. 66,37,904, of which Rs. 22,11,751 came from provincial revenues, Rs. 7,69,236 from district board funds, and Rs. 7,18,088 from municipal funds. The expenditure incurred by the district boards on primary education was smaller in the year under review than in the previous year, owing to the economic depression. The expenditure by the municipalities, however, showed an increase of Rs. 30,000, mainly on account of the larger expenditure incurred by the Corporation of Calcutta. During the year the number of panchayeti union schools for boys rose from 895 to 904, and a grant of Rs. 1,39,520 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools for boys and girls. Further expansion of the scheme had to be postponed owing to the gradual application of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act. Two new primary schools under Mr. Biss's scheme were established in the town of Dacca, involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 400 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 2,040 annually. A 5-year scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education of all boys of school-going age in the Chittagong municipality was also sanctioned at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1,20,700, half to be borne by Government and half by the municipality itself. A similar 6-year scheme for the free primary education of girls within the same municipality was also sanctioned, the cost being divided equally between Government and the municipality. On the 31st March 1933 there were in Calcutta 483 primary schools for Indian boys attended by 39,017 pupils, of whom 24,507 were Hindus and 13,113 Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining primary schools in Calcutta amounted to Rs. 7,27,830. A scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in ward No. IX of Calcutta has been sanctioned by Government and will soon be introduced by the Corporation. During the year there were 1,187 night schools with 28,619 pupils reading in them. As it was not possible on account of the financial depression to introduce the full scheme under the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, Government sanctioned an optional scheme for such district boards as would agree to place at the disposal of the district school boards their existing allotment for primary education.

Training of male teachers.

380. The two Government training colleges at Calcutta and Dacca for secondary school teachers registered 151 pupils on March 31st, 1933 against 142 on the corresponding date of the previous year. All the students read the B. T. course. The majority of the students admitted to the two training colleges last session were aided school teachers and young men intending to take up the work of teaching. Out of 160 students who appeared in the B. T. examination in 1933, 131 were successful. The two State scholarships

available for the professional training of graduate teachers of secondary schools in the Presidency were not awarded during the year under report on account of financial stringency.

First grade training or Normal schools.

381. On the 31st March 1933 there were 5 Normal or first grade training schools in the Presidency, which were attended by 414 pupils, as against 428 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 1,21,150, almost the whole of which was met from provincial revenues. The schools passed 205 students out of 229 who sat for the final examination.

Guru and muallim training schools.

382. The total number of guru and muallim training schools, which train teachers for boys'primary schools and maktabs, was 86 on March 31st, 1933. The number was the same as in the previous year. They were attended by 2,179 students, as compared with 2,153 in the year 1931-32. Of these schools 80 were managed by Government, and one by the Corporation of Calcutta, while the rest were maintained by Missionary Societies. Of the 2,167 candidates who appeared in the final examination from these schools, 1,734 were successful The total cost of maintenance of these schools was Rs. 3,51,838, of which Rs. 3,28,396 was met from provincial revenues.

Training of women teachers.

383. Pending the establishment of a women's training college by Government in Calcutta, women teachers of secondary schools continued to receive professional training in the training departments attached to the Diocesan College and Loreto House. There were 35 students under training on March 31st, 1933. Out of 22 students who sat for the last B. T. examination, 17 were successful. The number of training schools and classes for training women teachers employed in primary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools in Bengal remained unchanged at 10. Of these 3 were directly managed by Government and the rest by the Christian and Brahmo missions, as in the previous year. There were 241 pupils in these schools as against 234 in the previous year.

Professional and technical education: Bengal Engineering College.

384. On the 31st March 1933 the Bengal Engineering College had 288 pupils on its rolls against 307 students in the previous year. Thirty-five and 40 students passed the B.E. and I.E. examinations respectively. Seven obtained diplomas in mechanical and electrical engineering, and five passed the examination for Associateship in mechanical engineering during the year. The average annual cost per student worked out at Rs. 1,234 of which Rs. 1,014 was met from provincial revenues. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 1,647 and Rs. 1,402.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

385. On the 31st March 1933 the Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had 433 pupils on its rolls against 493 in the preceding year. The school passed 73 students in the Overseer

examination and 82 students in the Sub-Overseer examination during the year. The cost of maintaining the school amounted to Rs. 1,33,110, of which Rs. 82,877 was borne from provincial revenues. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 1,25,376 and Rs. 87,354 respectively. The annual cost of educating a student was Rs. 296, of which Rs. 184 was met from provincial revenues. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 254 and Rs. 177 respectively.

Commercial schools: Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

386. The number of commercial schools in the Presidency remained unchanged at 24. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, registered 373 pupils on 31st March 1933 against 365 in the previous year. The school passed 44 students in the final Commercial Course examination against 34 in the previous year. In the Special Commercial Course examination 57 passed against 138 in the previous year. The upkeep of the institution cost Rs. 65,619 during the year under report, of which Rs. 39,850 was borne by provincial revenues. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 71,690 and Rs. 46,824 respectively.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

387. The Government School of Art had 254 students on 31st March 1933 as against 237 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance amounted in the year under report to Rs. 42,625, of which Rs. 30,197 was borne by Government. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 44,880 and Rs. 33,400 respectively.

Other schools of art.

388. Besides the Government School of Art, Calcutta, there were 4 other art schools in the Presidency, as previously. Three of these were located in Calcutta, and one at Maheswarpasa in Khulna district. These schools had altogether 260 pupils on March 31st 1933, and the cost of managing them during the year was Rs. 31,728, of which Rs. 9,812 was contributed from provincial revenues.

Education of Indian girls and women.

389. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls during the year under review increased from 17,898 to 18,538. The number of arts colleges for women in the Presidency increased from 4 to 6, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 366 to 508. One hundred and ninety-five girls passed the I.A. and I.Sc. examination, while 106 secured the Bachelor's degree, against 183 and 88 respectively in the previous year. At the Matriculation examination, 1933, 547 passed against 394 in the previous year. It is gratifying to note that, in addition to the Vidyasagar College, Calcutta, the Braja Mohan Institution, Barisal, and the Ashutosh College, Bhowanipur, opened separate sections for women. In the Isan Institution, a high school for boys in Faridpur, a girls section was opened during the year and a lady

superintendent appointed. As before music continued to be taught in the Bethune College, Calcutta, under the auspices of the Sangit Sangha. The number of primary schools for girls stood at 18,067 with 563,358 pupils on their rolls during the year under report. Private agencies such as the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes and Missionary Societies have done most valuable work for the spread of education among Indian girls by maintaining numerous girls primary schools.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

390. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the 31st March 1933 was 69 as in the previous year. Four were for special instruction and 65 for general education. These 65 included 24 secondary, 19 higher grade, 21 primary and 1 ungraded school. Government directly controlled three institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' and the Dow Hill Girls' Schools at Kurseong for general education, and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, for the training of school mistresses. The rest were controlled by religious and philanthropic societies and by railway authorities. The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European schools was 11,664 against 11,586 in the previous year. The non-European pupils in the European schools numbered 2,539 during the year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children during the year under review was Rs. 35,51,300 as compared with Rs. 36,73,251 in the previous year. The total expenditure on scholarships during the year was Rs. 27,178 against Rs. 21,824 in the previous year. No European or Anglo-Indian male teacher was deputed during the year to the Chelmsford Training College in the Punjab. The Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, is the only institution for the training of European and Anglo-Indian women teachers in the Presidency. There were 18 students on March 31st, 1933, as compared with 14 on the corresponding date of the previous year. All the 8 candidates examined in the previous November were successful in passing. The Children's House, Kurseong, accommodates mentally and physically defective European children, and stipends to the value of Rs. 2,520 were awarded during the year for education and maintenance of children in this House. There were 24 pupils on March 31st, 1933, an increase of one over the figure for the previous year.

Muhammadan education.

391. During the year under review the number of Moslem students reading in all grades of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,437,655 to 1,476,797, of whom 1,141,692 were males and 335,105 were females, as compared with 1,084,646 Hindu boys and 256,087 Hindu girls on 31st March 1933. The proportion of Muhammadan pupils to the total number of students

registered on that date was 51·7 per cent. as against 51·6 per cent. in the preceding year. In arts and professional colleges the proportion of Moslems to the total number of students under instruction during the year was 13·4 per cent. and 11·8 per cent., respectively, as compared with 13·3 and 12·9 per cent. respectively in the previous year. In the high and middle stages of instruction Moslem students constituted 20·2 and 24·7 per cent. respectively of the pupils of all communities, as compared with 18·7 and 24·7 per cent. in the preceding year. In the primary stages the proportion remained stationary at 54·5, and in the special schools it declined from 71·5 to 70·6 per cent. The fall in the professional and special institutions was due partly to the widespread economic depression prevailing in the country. The number of Islamic intermediate colleges in the province remained unchanged at 3, and there were 142 students in them as against 165 in the previous year. Of the 87 students that appeared in the Islamic Intermediate examination in 1933, 52 were successful. During the year the number of madrasas decreased from 743 to 710, and their roll strength from 67,864 to 66,692. Of the total number of madrasas, 608 were of the reformed type, the rest being old type. The number of muktabs or secularised primary schools increased from 25,831 to 26,405, of which 16,714 were for boys and 9,691 for girls. The number of pupils reading in maktabs also increased from 859,533 to 867,556. Of the total number of pupils, 608,519 were boys and 259,087 were girls. The number of Muhammadan girls reading in all classes of recognised institutions was 329,150 as against 303,830 in the previous year. Of the total number, 11 were in the arts and professional colleges, 161 were in the high stage, 290 in the middle stage, 328,219 in the primary stage and 469 in special schools. To encourage Moslem education in the province, Government have provided the following facilities, viz., (1) reservation of places in favour of Moslem students in Government and aided schools, (2) grant of special scholarships and stipends and free studentships to the extent of 15 per cent. of their own enrolment and (3) higher grants to denominational schools, *e.g.*, 50 per cent. higher grants to recognised maktabs.

Oriental education.

392. The only noticeable event of the year under this head was the substitution of the Bengal Sanskrit Association for the Calcutta Sanskrit Association. The latter association, which was first formed in 1918, never functioned in its entirety. The Sanskrit College Committee accordingly proposed a system of local samajes and associations sending representatives to a central organisation which would work through a council of ten members. Government accepted the proposals of the committee with certain modifications, and the new constitution was sanctioned by them in March 1933.

393. In Bengal there is no school specially set apart for the education of the sons of chiefs and nobles, but in the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad there are special arrangements for the education of boys of the Nizamat family. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction during the year was 26 against 24 in the previous year. The upkeep of the hostel attached to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution reserved for these boys cost Government Rs. 5,440 during the year as compared with Rs. 5,274 in 1931-32.

Education of the sons of chiefs and nobles.

394. On March 31st 1933, 368,950 boys and 68,270 girls belonging to the educationally backward classes were under instruction in various types of schools and colleges in the Presidency against 375,554 boys and 64,500 girls in the preceding year. It is gratifying to note that the number of girls receiving education has been steadily on the increase. Schools for backward class children continued to be maintained for the most part by Missionary Societies or philanthropic bodies, such as the Society for the Improvement of the Backward Classes, the Bengal Social Service League, the Hindu Relief Society, the American Baptist Mission of Midnapore and the Wesleyan Mission of Bankura. Government gave aid to these institutions and accorded special privileges to their pupils. The Society for the Improvement of the Backward Classes, for instance, maintained 443 schools and received a grant of Rs. 9,250 during the year. During the year under report the number of free studentships for backward class students in Government-aided schools was raised from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. of their own enrolment.

Education of the children of the backward classes.

395. The industrial institution maintained by the Salvation Army near Saidpur in the district of Rangpur for the children of Karwal Nats, a criminal tribe, was attended by 35 boys and 33 girls against 35 boys and 34 girls in the preceding year. A primary school has also recently been opened there by the same society for the education of the children of the Karwal Nats below the age of 7. It had 19 boys and 22 girls on March 31st, 1933. In the Jalpaiguri jail there was an elementary school for the education of the prisoners. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Alipore, had 198 pupils on March 31st, 1933, against 215 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The upkeep of these institutions cost Government Rs. 46,420. During the period under report 123 boys of the schools were attacked with beri-beri, but very fortunately there were no deaths. The Borstal School at Bankura had 182 pupils on its rolls against 277 in the previous year, and cost Government Rs. 37,812.

Education of criminal classes.

396. The Children's House at Kurseong for defective European children has already been referred to. The blind school at

Education of defectives.

Behala had 63 boys and 23 girls during the year against 64 boys and 14 girls in the previous year. The total expenditure of the school was Rs. 32,842, of which Rs. 7,311 came from provincial revenues. The Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School had 207 pupils against 199 in the previous year. The five deaf and dumb schools at Dacca, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chittagong and Rajshahi, had a total roll strength of 74 pupils.

Tea-garden schools.

397. In the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts there were 169 tea-garden schools with 3,225 pupils during 1932-33 against 171 schools with 3,496 pupils in 1931-32. The decrease is ascribed to the bad economic condition of the gardens. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 23,689, of which public funds contributed Rs. 10,878.

Education of factory and colliery children.

398. There were 6 primary schools in the district of the 24-Parganas for the education of factory children. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 5,188 of which Rs. 3,104 was paid from provincial revenues. In the coal mine areas of the Burdwan district there were some colliery primary schools specially meant for the education of miners' children; and some mills in the Hooghly district maintained or subsidised primary schools for the children of the mill hands. The railway authorities at Kharagpur maintained a primary school for the education of the children of railway workshop labourers.

Cantonment schools.

399. The Cantonment area of Barrackpore had 8 schools with 782 pupils in 1932-33 against 9 schools with 875 pupils in 1931-32. The fall in the number of boys and girls attending the primary stages is regrettable, and is probably due partly to the poverty of the labouring classes and partly to a decrease in their numbers. The two primary schools at Jalapahar and Lebong Cantonments together had 108 pupils.

CHAPTER XII.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Industries Department.

[Report on the administration of the Industries Department for the year 1932-33].

400. There was practically no change during the year under review in the financial condition of the province as a result of the continued abnormal economic situation caused by the world-wide trade depression to which reference was made in the previous year's review. In accordance with the recommendations of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee, which was appointed to overhaul expenditure in all the departments under Government and to suggest economies that might reasonably be effected therein, the ultimate expenditure of the Industries Department was reduced to the extent of Rs. 57,856 as a measure of economy. In spite of the limitations imposed on departmental expenditure, however, the activities of the different sections of the Industries Department, viz., chemical, engineering, tanning and weaving sections, received due attention. General.

401. The Bengal Tanning Institute maintained its record of usefulness in the research, instruction, demonstration, and propaganda spheres of its activity. In the Chemical section problems relating to the development of the indigenous soap industry were investigated. The activities of the Engineering section were mainly concentrated on the improvement of equipment for small scale and cottage industries. The progress of technical education generally was maintained. One phase of the activities of the Weaving section deserves special mention. The activities of the weaving demonstration parties attached to the department were hitherto mainly concentrated on demonstrations connected with cotton fabrics. A new departure was made in this direction during the year under report, as a result of which the possibilities of weaving woollen wrappers with various kinds of designs, carpets, blankets, and *kora* silk cloth after being bleached, dyed and printed, were successfully demonstrated in some parts of the province. Technical education, Research, and Demonstration.

402. An interesting experiment made during the year was the inauguration of a scheme of industrial development as a means of affording partial relief to the present unemployment amongst the educated middle classes of the province. The immediate object of the scheme is the erection of an industrial Industrial development and survey scheme.

atmosphere in the country, and the provision for unemployed young men of an opportunity for training in new and improved processes in the various cottage industries, which it is hoped will afford them remunerative occupation. With the co-operation of local bodies and of local Government officers Advisory Industrial Committees were formed in certain districts of each division for industrial development in furtherance of this scheme. By the appointment of two Industrial Surveyors and the establishment of these associations, steps have been taken to supply the long left necessity of the collection and compilation of local commercial and industrial intelligence as a preliminary step towards the development of cottage and small industries in this province, and it is proposed to publish as a guide book to industrialists an Industrial Directory embodying the results of this survey.

Bengal State Aid to Industries Act.

403. The Bengal State Aid to Industries Act, was another measure intended to foster the development of small scale industries and to assist in the solution of the unemployment problem. With the nucleus of the contributions received from the public a local fund styled the Bengal State Aid to Industries Act Fund was created, the assets of which now stand at Rs. 54,000. This fund will enable Government to meet to some extent deserving applications for assistance received from industrialists in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Steps have also been taken subsequently to make provision for assistance to industrialists by advances from State funds and by a guarantee of cash credit to banks in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In pursuance of the same policy Government issued revised rules for the supply of articles required to be purchased for the public service, the underlying principle of which was the development of indigenous industries to the utmost possible extent consistent with economy and efficiency by providing for a limited degree of preference in respect of price to articles produced or manufactured in Bengal.

Manufacture and Mines.

Jute.

404. The area under jute cultivation including the Cooch Behar and Tripura States during 1932-33 was 1,633,200 (revised) acres against 1,613,700 in the previous year. The total outturn was 5,127,500 bales against 5,002,700 bales in the previous year. There were 91 jute mills at work, the same number as in the previous year, but the number of operatives decreased from 264,451 to 253,234. The number of looms and spindles at work in these mills was 58,551 and 1,195,583 respectively, as against 58,639 and 1,171,810 in the previous year. In addition one jute mill with 720 spindles employing on an average 100 operatives

worked for only a part of the year, while two jute mills with 307 looms and 11,398 spindles remained closed during the year. The authorised capital in rupees and sterling as reported by 86 mills was Rs. 23,08 82,000 and £3,175,000. Five mills being either proprietory or private concerns did not disclose their capital.

Cotton. 405. Fifteen cotton mills were worked during the year 1932-33, employing on an average 18,956 operatives, as against fourteen mills in the previous year employing 18,073 operatives. The number of looms and spindles at work was 5,710 and 314,192 respectively, as against 4,943 and 340,862 in 1931-32.

Silk. 406. There were two silk mills under the operation of the Indian Factories Act employing on an average 277 operatives daily against 310 in the previous year. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 48,752 kahans, 24,167 kahans being raised by Government nurseries and 24,585 kahans by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar. 407. The acreage under sugar crops increased from 288,300 in 1931-32 to 290,700 in 1932-33. Two sugar factories employing on an average 139 persons daily were registered during the year. Two small sugar grinding mills, which were under the operation of the Indian Factories Act during the previous year, remained closed during the year.

Tea. 408. The area under tea in 1932 was 207,011 acres (including figures for the Tripura State), as against 206,978 acres (revised) in the preceding year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 110,506,855 lbs. as against 90,096,271 lbs. in 1931. There were 392 tea plantations employing on an average 180,879 permanent and 7,713 temporary hands daily There were 288 tea factories under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, and the total daily average number of operatives employed was 15,722. This number excluded those employed in the gardens outside the factory premises.

Paper. 409. There were three paper mills at work during the year employment on an average 4,222 persons daily. They produced 29,468 tons of paper valued approximately at Rs. 1,20,74,805.

Wool. 410. As in the previous year, only the Dacca Central Jail Woollen Mill with 16 looms and 576 spindles was at work during the year. It employed on an average 106 persons daily, and produced 48,721 lbs. of blankets valued approximately at Rs. 36,268.

Saltpetre. 411. As in the previous year there were only one licensed saltpetre refinery at work. It produced 13 maunds of refined saltpetre against 62 maunds in the previous year. No pure salt was educed in the process of refinement, nor was there any production of impure salt during the year 1932-33.

Coal.

412. During 1932, the number of coal mines under the scope of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, was 197 against 206 in the preceding year. The daily average number of workers employed in these mines was 43,423. The total output of coal raised during the year fell to 5,782,603 tons from 5,810,184 tons in the previous year. The supply of mining labour was ample. There was a general reduction in the rates paid to workmen. In addition the weekly earnings of many miners were adversely affected by the fact that many collieries worked only 3 and 4 days in the week during a considerable part of the year. The low price of food-stuffs, however, alleviated to a great extent the condition of the workers. In spite of the depressed condition of trade the relations between employers and employees were cordial. The number of coal mines using electric power was 51, the same number as in the previous year, and the number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 27 and 11,490 respectively, against 29 and 11,071 in 1931. The number of women employed underground was 5,060 or about 16 per cent. of the total number of persons, both male and female, employed underground in coal mines. Although the trade depression continued prices were fairly steady during the early part of the year, due mainly to the result of a common agreement among the leading mine owners; but as the output of coal increased with the advance of the year it far exceeded the demand, steadiness could not be maintained, and the latter part of the year witnessed a heavy fall in prices. The shipments of coal from Calcutta showed a slight increase over the previous year, due mainly to the fact that it was found cheaper to send coal to the western part of India by sea rather than by rail. The work of the Indian Coal Grading Board was continued during the year, and it maintained the same high standard as previously. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee achieved satisfactory results by carrying on extensive house to house propaganda and by establishing propaganda centres and selling depots in several large towns.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

Presidency division.

413. A new feature of the year was the establishment of sugar factories in important centres of the industry in the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore districts. In the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, brass utensils were manufactured on a small scale; and the ice factory at Hasanabad continued to operate during the year under report. A soap factory was started at Chack in the Lalbagh subdivision of the Murshidabad district; and the cottage industries of mat-making, weaving, cane work and shoe-making were in progress

in some parts of the Khulna district. The Bagerhat Weaving Union, Ltd., manufactured coatings, shirtings and woollen wrappers on a factory scale.

414. Three sugar factories on a small scale were started in Rajshahi district, and one in Dinajpur. Two small shoe manufacturing concerns were started in the Jalpaiguri district. The Karwal Nut Settlement at Saidpur in Rangpur district manufactured durries, shirtings and other cotton goods, but business was indifferent. Some of the hosiery mills in Pabna ceased to work on account of trade depression. The silk industry of Malda also suffered from the trade slump and foreign competition. The demonstration of improved reeling by the Mysore Domestic Basin created some interest amongst the local consumers. Production of *kora* silk was taken up by local weavers. An oil mill and a sugar mill started operations at English Bazar towards the end of the year, and the rice mills at Rohanpur and Nokranpur resumed their work and did better than before. A new coop-weaving industry was started at Kalimpong, and turned out carpets and other articles made from Tibetan wool. Rajshahi division.

415. While the coal industry did not show any improvement the Indian Iron and Steel Company slightly improved its position towards the latter part of the year. The products of the indigenous industries, such as bell-metal articles, steel trunks, pottery goods, paper, tasar manufactures, etc., could not find a ready market as imported goods were generally cheaper. Several rice mills were opened in the Midnapore district, but they were unable to work throughout the year. The blanket and shoe industries were hard hit by the trade depression. The cotton and silk cottage industries of the Bankura district suffered markedly from Japanese competition, and the other local industries of the district also languished on account of both foreign competiton and adverse trade conditions. Burdwan division.

416. In the Narayanganj subdivision the Lakshminarayan Cotton Mills started operations, the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills underwent expansion, and a new cotton mill "The East Bengal Cotton Mills" was expected to commence work within a short time. Two small shoe factories were started at Rajbari in Faridpur district, and one at Saturia Bandar in Dacca district. A small sugar mill also was established at Pangsa in the district of Faridpur. Dacca division.

417. There was no change to report in the condition of the existing industries in this division during the year. Chittagong division.

The Indian Factories Act, 1911 (Act XII of 1911).

Statistics.

418. Sixty-two factories were added to and 50 removed from the register during the year 1932, and the total number of factories was 1,615 at the close of the year, as compared with 1,603 at the end of the previous year. The industrial depression continued to be felt and there was a further drop in the average daily number of operatives employed in registered factories. The number was 454,007 at the end of the year against 480,439 in 1931. Jute mills showed a further decrease of 13,975, following on the decrease of 59,888 during the preceding year. The other classes of factories in which there was a substantial decrease in the number of persons employed were ship-building and engineering works, general engineering works, iron and steel smelting and rolling mills, and railway workshops. A further decrease was also recorded in the average daily number of women employed in registered factories. This was 59,508 at the close of the year against 61,943 in 1931. Fully two-thirds of the female factory labourers are employed in jute mills, in which 40,294 were engaged in 1932 as against 42,254 in 1931. This shows a decrease of 1,960, or approximately 4½ per cent. The average daily number of children employed in registered factories at the close of the year was 5,087, as compared with 7,281 in the previous year. The decrease of 2,194 is due mainly to the policy of the jute mills in dispensing with the employment of child labour in favour of adult labour.

Inspection.

419. During the year under review the Inspectors of Factories paid 3,155 visits to registered, and 239 visits to unregistered, factories. In the course of these visits 812 factories were visited once, 247 twice, 137 three times, and 208 more than three times. Eighty-three factories were not inspected at all. The District Magistrates of Birbhum, Midnapore, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Dinajpur and Bogra also inspected factories within their respective jurisdictions. Of the factories that were not inspected, a number were believed to have closed, and the others were new ones registered after the Inspectors' visits to the districts. The majority were small mufassal concerns and their inspection had to be deferred for reasons of economy in respect of travelling expenditure.

Sanitation.

420. In spite of the depressed condition of industry the standard of health and sanitary conditions was well maintained, especially in the larger factories. In some cases improvements were effected. In the smaller factories in Howrah and the mufassal districts, however, financial stringency led to reduction in staffs and in expenditure in connection with sanitation. In

some areas conservancy arrangements were reported to be inadequate, but in view of the financial conditions prevailing Inspectors had to confine their orders to minor requirements such as lime-washing, the removal of rubbish and filth from factory premises, and petty repairs to latrines. Orders involving heavy expenditure could not in such cases have been carried into effect. No difficulty was experienced in the application of the amended rules 33 and 34 of the Bengal Factories Rules, which provide for a more equitable scale of latrine accommodation. Special attention to septic tank latrines in factories was paid by the Public Health Department, which during the year under report approved plans of 24 new septic tank latrines and one activated sludge plant.

421. The general health of the factory workers was on the whole normal. Though sporadic cases of small-pox and cholera were reported from some mills, there were no serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases, except at the Waverly Jute Mills where malaria in a serious epidemic form was reported. **Health.**

422. During the year under review there was a still further decrease in the earnings of factory operatives, due to the continuance of trade depression. Although the average decrease since the commencement of the depression is estimated to be no greater than 10 per cent., the total earnings of industrial workers were seriously affected by short-time working, irregular work, and unemployment. The tea industry was the only industry of any importance in which wage rates were not materially affected. The Labour Commission's recommendation that the jute industry in Bengal should take early steps to investigate the possibility of standardization of wage rates both for time and piece work was discussed during the year under review by the Indian Jute Mills Association, which appointed a special sub-committee for the purpose. The sub-committee, after investigating the question fully, came to the conclusion that nothing could be done in the direction of general standardization covering all mill, but suggested that the managing agents of the mills in the various districts should arrange to discuss the matter among themselves with particular reference to local conditions. As a result of this suggestion attempts were made to standardize wages in the groups of mills in the Titagarh, Rishra-Serampore and Baidyabati areas. **Wages.**

423. The steady progress made by jute mills and certain other large factories in the development of housing and welfare schemes was maintained in past years in spite of adverse trade conditions, but this progress could not be continued during the year under review owing to the economic depression. The majority of **Welfare work.**

factories had seriously to curtail, and in some cases to abandon, expenditure under this head. Nevertheless noteworthy developments in welfare work were made in certain factories. Housing conditions on the whole were satisfactory, for owing to the decrease in the number of persons employed the standard of accommodation improved, and not infrequently the accommodation was more than adequate to meet the needs of the reduced number of workers. The European Lady Doctor appointed by the Indian Jute Mills Association to carry out a regional survey in connection with the proposal to establish welfare centres, baby clinics, and creches in all its mills, completed her task during the year under review and submitted a detailed scheme for the consideration of the Association. The Association considered the scheme, but in view of the financial position of the mills it was not possible to give effect to it during the year.

Safety.

424. Close attention continued to be paid to the subject of safety in factories, and there was no laxity in complying with the requirements of the Act. For their own protection the workers on "roving frames" in a number of mills were compelled to wear "shorts" instead of dhoties. The safety agreement with the Indian Jute Mills Association, noticed in last year's report, provides that all new jute textile machinery installed after the 1st July 1932 should be fitted by the machine-makers with standard guards and safety devices. Such machines were installed in a few mills during the year.

Accidents.

425. The total number of accidents during the year was 3,009, of which 29 were fatal, 875 serious, and 2,105 minor, as against a total of 3,313 during the previous year. The fall was mainly due to the general slackness in trade and the smaller number of operatives employed.

Prosecutions.

426. The number of prosecutions increased from 114 in 1931 to 181 during the year under review. The increase was due chiefly to greater efforts made in the mufassal districts to enforce the provisions of the Act. Of this number, 147 were against managers, 28 against occupiers, 3 against occupiers and managers jointly, 2 against subordinate staff, and 1 against a worker. One hundred and forty-six cases ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal. Of the 17 cases pending at the close of the previous year, 15 ended in conviction, 1 was filed owing to the death of the accused, and one ended in acquittal.

Labour Disputes.

427. The total number of trade disputes during the year involving stoppages of work was 33, as against 41 in the previous year. One of the disputes occurred in the previous year and was

still in progress when the year under report commenced, but all of them ended during the year. The number of workmen involved in all the disputes in the year was 66,155, as compared with 65,041 in the previous year, and the aggregate loss resulting from the disputes was 1,049,684 working days, as against 623,440 in the year 1931-32. Twenty-eight of the disputes of the year arose out of demands for advances in wages or from other wage questions, two arose on details of leave and hours of work, one on questions bearing on dismissal or discharge and other similar disciplinary action, and two on miscellaneous issues. Of the 33 disputes in the year seven were settled in favour of the workers either wholly or in part, and seventeen in favour of the employers, while in the remaining nine cases work was resumed either as the result of compromises or pending negotiations.

Indian Trade Union Act, 1926.

428. During the year five trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and the registration of two of the trade unions already registered was cancelled. The total number of registered trade unions on the Bengal register was 31 at the close of the year, as compared with 28 at the close of the previous year. Two of the 31 Unions did not submit the annual return prescribed under the Act, and statutory action was being taken with respect to them. The total membership of the remaining 29 unions at the close of the year was 71,860, composed of 71,420 males and 440 females. The balance at the credit of the general funds of 25 of them was Rs. 1,54,298-12-9, and the remaining four had deficits at the close of the year which totalled Rs. 4,479-12-6.

Steam Boiler Commission, Bengal.

429. The Commission held one special and twelve ordinary meetings for the transaction of business during the year 1932-33. The total number of boilers on the register at the close of the year was 4,389,245 having been struck off the register during the year. The staff inspected 3,389 boilers in respect of which certificates were granted. One hundred and forty-three boilers were found to be defective, and instructions were given for necessary repairs to make them serviceable. Three boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. The receipts of the Boiler Commission, during the year under review, from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,75,904, of which Rs. 1,47,933 related to fees received for the inspection of boilers in Bengal. The total expenditure of the Commission during the year amounted to Rs. 2,45,352, of which

Bengal was responsible for Rs. 1,31,879. The figures representing the corresponding receipts and expenditure during the preceding year were Rs. 2,85,246 and Rs. 2,63,970 respectively, out of which Rs. 1,48,564 on account of fee-receipts and Rs. 1,39,314 on account of expenditure related to Bengal. Six prosecutions were instituted during the year, all of which ended in conviction. There were no boiler accidents of a serious nature, nor was any fatality or injury to any person due to a boiler accident recorded during the year under review.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

430. The Commission held thirteen meetings during the year. Eighty-eight plans of furnaces, etc., were examined and approved, and 79 of these were actually prepared in the office of the Commission. The number of inspections and tests for educational purposes carried out by the Inspectors during the year was 6,309, as against 15,135 during 1931. The number of offences reported during the year decreased from 4,864 in 1931 to 3,044. Statutory warnings were issued in 16 cases, as against 7 cases in the preceding year. There were ten cases of prosecutions during the year, nine of which ended in convictions. As noticed during the preceding years the work done by the Commission was appreciated by the public. Complaints of smoke-nuisances were frequently made to it. The number of such complaints received during the year was 59, but many of them related to domestic smoke which is outside the Commission's power of control. The average emission of dense black smoke from each factory chimney in the area controlled by the Commission was ·08 minutes per hour, or 3,100 minutes per month, *i.e.*, the same figures as in 1931. This is the lowest figure recorded since the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act came into force in 1906, when the average monthly emission was 200,000 minutes. To control the serious smoke-nuisance caused in the Tollyganj area owing to the emission of excessive smoke from the brickfields, Government have prohibited the erection or use of any brick kiln within that area unless such kiln is provided with a chimney approved by the Commission and is not less than one hundred feet high. To give effect to the recommendation of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee, the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Rules were amended reducing the fees of the members of the Commission for attending meetings of the Commission from Rs. 32 to Rs. 20. As in the preceding years the Commission continued propaganda work to educate public opinion on the benefits of smoke abatement and regarding the various methods by which those benefits can be attained. Illustrated charts and literature were circulated to the public through the

Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation. In collaboration with the Oriental Gas Company and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation the Commission also conducted a section of the Calcutta Health Welfare Week Exhibition. The exhibits showed the effects of smoke-nuisance and air pollution on respiratory organs, on the purity of food, and on trees, buildings and distant localities. The good results obtained from the use of smokeless gas and of electrical appliances for cooking and other domestic purposes were also demonstrated.

Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923).

431. An increase in cases from workers under small employers (*e.g.*, stevedores, rice and oil mills, etc.) is a noticeable feature of the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1932. The total number of accidents as well as the amount of compensation deposited with the Commissioner shows a slight decrease over the preceding year's figures. General.

432. Statistical returns were received during the year under report from 1,541 concerns, as against 1,481 during the preceding year. The average number of workers employed daily in these concerns was 515,635 adults and 4,806 minors; the corresponding figures for the previous year being 565,778 adults and 6,716 minors. Compensation was reported to have been paid for 2,029 accidents, as against 2,334 accidents in 1931. Of these accidents, 69 were fatal, 286 involved permanent disablement and 1,674 temporary disablement. Rupees 33,560 was shown in the returns as compensation paid for fatal accidents, Rs. 45,598 for permanent disablement and Rs. 24,401 for temporary disablement. The corresponding figures for last year were Rs. 47,390, Rs. 63,711 and Rs. 29,900, respectively. Under section 10 of the Act claims are instituted with the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for the award of compensation when the employer has refused or omitted to pay. During the year under report 160 such claims were received by the Commissioner, as against 94 during the preceding year. The increase in the number of claims is apparent only, and is due to a change in the procedure for dealing with such claims. From the beginning of 1932 several cases which had hitherto been treated as informal were dealt with by the regular procedure, exceptional cases only being dealt with informally as before. Allowing for the increase due to this change in procedure, the number of claims received during the year was approximately the same as in 1931. Of these 160 claims, 45 related to fatal accidents, 113 to permanent disablement, and 2 to temporary disablement. At the beginning of the year there were 39 such claims pending for disposal. Out of this total of Statistics.

199 claims, 1 was withdrawn, 23 were dismissed for non-appearance, 4 were summarily rejected and 44 were admitted by the opposite parties. Ninety claims were contested, and 37 remained pending at the close of the year. Thirteen of the contested claims were allowed in full, 49 were allowed in part, and 28 were dismissed. It is gratifying to record that in two cases an employer made *ex-gratia* payments through the Commissioner after successfully defending his cases on contest. In a third case successfully defended on grounds of law the representative of the employer stated in court that suitable compensation would be paid to the claimant. The total amount of compensation deposited with the Commissioner during the year was Rs. 1,46,272, as against Rs. 1,63,866 in 1931. These deposits included payments which it is compulsory under the law to make through the Commissioner, such as payment for fatal accidents and payments to women and persons under legal disability, as well as voluntary payments which could have been made direct to the workers concerned. During the year under report six cases were received by transfer from Burma, and 15 were transferred to other provinces for disposal. Two hundred and six agreements were filed for registration, 180 relating to permanent disablement and 26 to temporary disablement. Fifteen agreements remained pending at the commencement of the year. Of these 221 agreements, 197 were registered, it was found impossible to serve the statutory notice on the workers in six cases, and 18 cases remained pending at the close of the year, 14 for permanent and 4 for temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation involved in the agreements filed for permanent disablement was Rs. 34,164, as against Rs. 48,190 in 1931. The number of cases in which compensation was awarded during the year was 225. All these awards were in respect of accidents to adults, 151 being fatal 72 in respect of permanent disablement, and 2 for temporary disablement. The wage-class represented most frequently was Rs. 15-4, as against Rs. 20 in each of the preceding three years. Compensation at the maximum wage rate was paid in 3 cases, as against 8 in 1929, 3 in 1930 and 1 in 1931.

Finance.

433. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 25,194 and the total receipts during the year were Rs. 1,46,272. Payments by various method and channels accounted for Rs. 1,34,164 and the balance at the close of the year was Rs. 37,302.

Indian Companies Act of 1913 and allied Acts.

[Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and certain other allied Acts for 1932-33.]

Statistics.

434. The number of companies in operation limited by shares at the close of the year was 4,519, with a total authorised capital

of Rs. 3,99,92,68,429 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,28,41,18,628, compared with 4,328 companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 3,91,00,35,972 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,25,69,24,537 on the 31st March 1932. Two hundred and seventy-eight new companies and societies, or 18 more than the previous year, were registered. This increase after successive years of decrease may be taken as an indication that trade depression had already reached its lowest level. Of the new companies and societies, 248 were limited by shares and 10 by guarantee. Twenty societies representing social, philanthropic and charitable objects, were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, against 18 in the previous year. Nineteen companies for the manufacture of sugar were registered during the year as against 4 in 1931-32. Five hundred and eighty-five companies increased, while 20 companies reduced, their capital, compared with 542 and 24 respectively in 1931-32. Fifty-seven companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, and were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct, as against 51 in the previous year. Eighty-four companies went into liquidation during the year, but were not finally dissolved. The changes in the names of five companies were registered during the year. Two hundred and fifty-one prosecutions were instituted during the year, and 48 were pending from the previous year. Of these, 145 ended in conviction 10 in acquittal, 51 were filed, and 93 were pending at the close of the year. The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources amounted to Rs. 86,561-12 as compared with Rs. 80,621-9 in the preceding year.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912.

435. Seventy-three new Provident Insurance societies were registered under the Act during 1932-33, of which 45 were also registered under the Indian Companies Act. Four Provident Insurance societies went into liquidation, and the total number of such societies increased to 253 at the close of the year. No fresh auditors' certificates were granted by this Government during the year, as the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1930 (XIX of 1930) and the Auditors' Certificates Rules, 1932, came into force on 1st April 1932.

Trade.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

436. The world-wide economic depression, coupled with the instability of certain foreign exchanges, continued to affect the **Trade position.**

normal course of the trade of this province during the year under report, and the total value of private merchandise was the lowest for the last thirty years. In the case of such commodities as sugar, motor cars, and liquor the higher rates of duty set in motion the law of diminishing returns. Exports were hampered by the low prices offered for raw materials and agricultural produce, and by the tariff barriers which have been raised in many countries. The aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of the province (excluding treasure) with foreign countries and other Indian ports declined from Rs. 132·73 crores in 1931-32 to Rs. 122·99 crores during the year under report. This decline was almost entirely attributable to the heavy fall in foreign exports, which receded from Rs. 65·14 crores in 1931-32 to Rs. 56·43 crores. Foreign imports alone showed slight improvement, from Rs. 35·48 crores in 1931-32 to Rs. 35·83 crores. The value of the coasting trade of the province also receded as regards both imports and exports, the figures for the year under report being imports Rs. 18·90 crores and exports Rs. 11·82 crores, as against Rs. 19·74 crores and Rs. 12·35 crores respectively in 1931-32. The quantity of goods handled at the port of Calcutta was marked by a heavy fall under almost all heads. The British Empire's share of imports and exports showed a slight improvement and accounted for 48 per cent. of the total trade, as compared with 46 per cent. in the previous year. Trade with the continent of Europe (18 per cent.) and with Asia (15 per cent.) remained much the same, while that with America declined from 19 to 17 per cent. of the whole. A special feature of the year was the flooding of the Indian markets with cheap Japanese goods. To counteract this the duty on non-British cotton piece-goods was raised from 31¼ to 50 per cent. with effect from August 30th, 1932, but depreciation in the value of the yen nullified the protective advantages of the higher duty, and Japan continued to supply exceptionally large quantities of piece-goods, shoes, tyres, belting, heavy chemicals, and electric lamps. This led to the giving of six months' notice of abrogation of the Indo-Japanese Convention of 1905 in preparation for the introduction of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, which came into force with effect from April 16th, 1933, and which resulted in a further increase in the duty on non-British piece-goods from 50 to 75 per cent. with effect from June 7th, 1933.

Exchange.

437. Exchanges opened quiet in April and continued to be quiet during the month, with a gradual downward tendency due to the rise in the dollar sterling cross rate and consequent drop in the price of gold. With a diminution in the exports of gold, coupled with a paucity of export bills, the rate gradually sagged to *1s. 5¾d.* early in June. Towards the middle of June, however,

there was an improvement partly because of an increase in gold exports and partly due to sales of sterling stocks in London for repatriation to India for investment in rupee securities. The strength in the exchange market continued till the beginning of August, when Government re-entered the market to effect purchases of sterling. The export of gold which continued unabated lent strength to exchange. From September 1932 to January 1933 the highest quotation for telegraphic transfers remained steady at 1*s*. 6 5/32*d*. Thereafter the market showed some ease. The news received on the 6th March that the United States of America had temporarily prohibited the export of gold and dealings in foreign exchanges led to an immediate and precipitate fall in the rupee sterling exchange from 1*s*. 6 3/32*d*. to 1*s*. 5⅞*d*. This set-back was, however, temporary, for before the end of the month confidence was restored in the rupee sterling exchange. The telegraphic transfer rate rose to 1*s*. 6 3/32*d*. on the 22nd March, and remained steady at 1*s*. 6 1/32*d*. during the last week of the year.

438. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles imported into Calcutta from foreign ports:— **Imports.**

	1931-32.	1932-33.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Cotton goods	5,23,32,175	7,12,54,859	20·53
Machinery and millwork	3,11,11,583	3,81,02,099	10·98
Metals and ores	2,74,62,213	3,04,00,917	8·76
Oils	3,39,87,338	2,46,48,170	7·10
Instruments, apparatus and appliances	1,38,50,156	1,38,85,396	4·00
Sugar	1,89,05,710	1,22,36,630	3·53
Chemicals	97,42,580	1,05,02,013	3·03
Hardware	82,15,966	95,74,244	2·76
Paper and pasteboard	69,69,488	80,83,525	2·33
Provisions and oilman's stores	86,49,449	70,18,179	2·02
Spices	95,18,326	66,13,561	1·91
Postal articles not specified	80,24,834	65,62,713	1·89
Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits	66,71,181	63,71,768	1·84
Drugs and medicines	65,32,104	62,11,315	1·79
Salt	57,07,920	54,91,695	1·58
Motor vehicles	66,49,006	54,80,116	1·58
Woollen goods	30,15,262	46,75,167	1·35
Tobacco	39,20,323	44,36,854	1·28
Rubber	42,98,568	40,21,556	1·16
Artificial silk	36,55,774	39,57,657	1·14
Glass and glassware	33,57,000	38,04,880	1·10
Paints and painted materials	28,26,905	31,07,477	·90
Jewellery	1,90,847	29,16,125	·84
Tea-chests	32,88,024	28,33,074	·82

	1931-32.	1932-33.	Percentage
	Rs.	Rs.	
Boots and shoes	31,29,793	26,70,296	·77
Cycles	21,61,430	26,59,225	·77
Silk goods	21,53,034	25,04,177	·72
Dyeing and tanning substances	20,62,942	25,00,029	·72
Grains, pulse and flour	50,75,241	24,07,396	·69
Stationery (excluding paper)	22,10,354	23,07,468	·67
Building and engineering materials	16,35,252	19,90,750	·57
Paper-making materials (wood-pulp)	32,71,938	19,76,423	·57
Precious stones	3,55,107	19,60,946	·57
Wool, raw	12,60,375	18,08,829	·52
Toilet requisites	13,43,502	17,99,293	·52
Books, printed and printed matter	21,12,050	17,73,280	·51
Toys, and requisites for games	12,16,585	16,54,889	·48
Belting for machinery	12,73,634	16,01,568	·46
Railway carriages and wagons	33,91,829	15,43,790	·44
Wood and timber	14,76,549	14,86,516	·43
Apparel	19,48,040	14,64,871	·42
Soap	13,09,550	13,36,342	·39
Umbrella and fittings	18,54,217	12,78,502	·31
Leather	10,35,840	12,43,934	·36
Manures	11,97,424	11,31,679	·33
Haberdashery and millinery	10,19,652	10,65,155	·31
Other articles	1,70,29,867	1,47,45,207	4 25
Total	33,84,07,037	34,71,00,555	100 ·00

Liquors. 439. The import of liquors of all descriptions recorded a further fall during the year from 1,591,815 gallons valued at Rs. 66·71 lakhs in 1931-32 to 1,509,718 gallons valued at Rs. 63·72 lakhs. The figures for all kinds of potable liquors have for the last two years been far below those of the previous decade, but there was a slight improvement in the imports of beer, most of which came from the United Kingdom.

Sugar. 440. The import of sugar continued to fall rapidly from 411,169 tons in 1930-31 and 196,640 tons in 1931-32 to 118,150 tons in 1932-33. The value decreased from Rs. 1·89 lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 1·22 lakhs in 1932-33. This was the natural sequel to the high protective duties imposed by the Government of India, which have stimulated indigenous manufacture and have completely eliminated the imports of brown sugar. As usual the bulk of the sugar trade, viz., 97 per cent., was Java.

Salt. 441. The total quantity of salt imported during the year from all sources rose from 472,116 tons valued at Rs. 108·66 lakhs in 1931-32 to 528,802 tons valued at Rs. 121·53 lakhs. Aden, Bombay and Madras, however, suffered a setback in their trade. The

import from Aden was 253,076 tons against 286,606 tons in 1931-32, that from Bombay 9,614 tons as against 43,552, tons, and that from Madras 16,574 tons against 16,730 tons. The total quantity of salt which entered for home consumption at Calcutta was less than that in any of the three previous years, the decrease being shared between the United Kingdom and Aden. Imports from other countries for home consumption improved appreciably, and Italian East Africa, Egypt, Germany, and Spain recorded substantial increases. During the first half of the year, large quantities of Aden salt were consumed, but thereafter imports from other foreign ports predominated. There was a substantial fall in prices in September and October 1932, and there are no indications of an early return to the former price level. This naturally stimulated clearances *ex*-ship at the expense of clearances *ex-gola*, which were much below those in any year since 1915-16. The quantity in bond at the close of the year was 127,032 tons, an increase of 53·307 tons as compared with last year's figure.

Tobacco.

442. The total quantity of tobacco imported during the year rose from 1,895,772 lbs. valued at Rs. 39·20 lakhs in 1931-32 to 3,269,840 lbs. valued at Rs. 43·75 lakhs. This improvement of the trade was possible owing to the striking increase in the imports of unmanufactured tobacco, which rose to 2,948,248 lbs. valued at Rs. 31·82 lakhs, against the preceding years figures of 1,114,252 lbs. valued at Rs. 10·10 lakhs, and more than compensated for the heavy fall of the manufactured varieties which sank from 781,520 lbs. valued at Rs. 29,10 lakhs in 1931-32 to 321,592 lbs. valued at Rs. 11·93 lakhs. The figures for the different varieties of manufactured tobacco were, cigars 7,161, lbs. valued at Rs. ·38 lakhs, cigarettes 276,530 lbs. at Rs. 8·93 lakhs, and other sorts 37,901 lbs. at Rs. 2-62 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were, cigars 9,493 lbs. valued at Rs. ·46 lakhs, cigarettes 686,908 lbs. at Rs. 22·12 lakhs, and other sorts 85,219 lbs. at Rs. 6·52 lakhs. Most of the unmanufactured tobacco came from the United States of America, and the cigarettes and pipe tobacco from the United Kingdom. The figures show that locally made cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco protected by high duties are increasing in popularity.

Mineral oils.

443. The total quantity of mineral oils imported during the year receded from 123,478,479 gallons valued at Rs. 7,19,22 lakhs in 1931-32 to 105,752,461 gallons at Rs. 5,62·05 lakhs. Of this total decrease of 17,726,018 gallons, kerosine alone was responsible for 13,491,558 gallons. The big decrease was due to large stocks carried forward and to less consumption by the poorer classes, especially in Bengal. Borneo, which supplied 2 million

gallons in 1931-32, dropped out of the list altogether. Imports of petrol also declined by 4¼ million gallons and fuel oil by over a million gallons. Imports from Burma remained constant, but supplies from the United States of America and Sumatra ceased altogether.

Motor vehicles.

444. The downward tendency of the motor vehicles trade noticed since 1928-29 continued during the year under report. The number of vehicles imported during the year was, motor cars (including taxi cabs) 1,618, motor cycles (including scooters) 202, motor omnibuses, vans and lorries 187. In 1931-32 the figures were 1,783, 285 and 439 respectively. The total value of motor vehicles of all kinds and parts thereof dropped from Rs. 66·49 lakhs to Rs. 54·80 lakhs. Tyres and tubes also showed a similar decline both in value and quantity. In spite of this general decline in the trade the number of motor cars from the United Kingdom increased from 751 to 1,029 at the expense of the United States of America, whose share dropped from 798 to 309. The majority of motor cycles also came from the United Kingdom, but in the case of buses, etc., the United States maintained her premier position during the year and supplied 154 vehicles as compared with 28 received from the United Kingdom.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

445. The total value of drugs, medicines, and chemicals rose from Rs. 1,62·75 lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 1,67·13 lakhs, which is again a little above the corresponding figure for the year 1930-31. The chief items under drugs and medicines such as camphor, proprietory and patent medicines, and quinine, recorded a fall in trade, while imports under chemicals showed an improvement, except as regards bleaching materials and carbide of calcium which suffered a slight setback.

Glassware and earthenware.

446. The downward tendency of the import trade in glass and earthenwares noticed since 1929-30 was arrested during the year under report. The total value rose from Rs. 41·12 lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 42·56 lakhs during the year, although this figure is much below those for the years preceding 1931-32. The improvement is solely attributable to larger imports of certain varieties of glassware from Japan, Czechoslovakia, Germany and the United Kingdom, which rose from Rs. 33·57 lakhs in the preceding year to Rs. 38·04 lakhs during the year under review and more than compensated for the fall of Rs. 3·03 lakhs over the preceding year's value of Rs. 7·55 lakhs in earthenwares.

Machinery and millwork.

447. Imports improved in value from Rs. 3,11 lakhs to Rs. 3,81 lakhs, but were still a long way behind the figures for any of the previous five years. The progress of the indigenous sugar industry is reflected in the large increase in sugar machinery, which was valued Rs. 1,31·5 lakhs compared with Rs. 27·6 lakhs in 1931-32

Tea machinery also showed an improvement from Rs. 5·9 lakhs to Rs. 11·9 lakhs. Textile machinery maintained its usual level. About 72 per cent. of the total imports were of British manufacture, the balance being supplied by Germany, the United States of America, and Belgium.

Metals and metal manufactures.

448. The total quantity of iron and steel goods imported during the year rose from 102,038 tons in 1931-32 to 102,833 tons, but the value dropped from Rs. 1,76·00 lakhs to Rs. 1,63·58 lakhs. Larger imports of non-protected goods of iron manufacture were responsible for this improvement, in spite of a fall of about 1,600 tons in protected goods. The figures for protected and non-protected goods were 55,295 tons valued at Rs. 86·82 lakhs and 47,538 tons valued at Rs. 76·76 lakhs respectively. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were protected goods 56,888 tons valued at Rs. 91·57 lakhs and non-protected goods 45,150 tons valued at Rs. 84·43 lakhs. Metals and ores other than iron and steel recorded the highest quantity imported since 1927-28, viz., 519,847 tons, but their value was just above the lowest figure recorded since that year, viz., Rs. 140·43 lakhs, against Rs. 98·62 in 1931-32. The United Kingdom had the largest share of the iron and steel trade. Belgium came next, and the business done by Germany and the United States of America was small in comparison. In the trade in metals other than iron and steel the United Kingdom again headed the list, with Germany, Belgium, the United States of America and France following.

Paper, paste-board and woodpulp.

449. The import trade in paper recorded an improvement from 526,097 cwts. valued at Rs. 62·89 lakhs in 1931-32 to 601,943 cwts. valued at Rs. 68·36 lakhs. Larger imports of non-protected qualities of paper are responsible for this improvement of the trade, in spite of a drop in the protected qualities from 47,008 cwts. valued at Rs. 12·52 lakhs in 1931-32 to 40,486 cwts. valued at Rs. 10·59 lakhs. Of the total quantity of paper imported during the year under report, packing paper was responsible for 95,382 cwts., printing paper for 189,105 cwts., writing paper and envelopes for 20,327 cwts., other kinds of paper including old newspapers for 282,787 cwts., and paper manufactures for 14,342 cwts. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were 65,699 cwts., 186,019 cwts., 22,247 cwts., 243,476 cwts. and 8,656 cwts. respectively. The trade in pasteboard, etc., also showed an improvement and rose from 69,683 cwts. valued at Rs. 6·80 lakhs in 1931-32 to 129·975 cwts. valued at Rs. 12·48 lakhs. There was, however, a set back in the woodpulp trade from 404,996 cwts. valued at Rs. 32·71 lakhs in 1931-32 to 283,181 cwts. valued at Rs. 19·75 lakhs. This was attributable to a larger use of indigenous materials. Sweden and Norway were the chief suppliers

of packing paper. The bulk of the printing paper came from Norway, Austria and the United Kingdom. In the case of writing paper the United Kingdom was the chief supplier, with Norway next. "Other kinds of paper" also came mainly from the United kingdom. Pasteboards, etc., came mainly from Japan, followed by the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom. Woodpulp came chiefly from the Scandinavian countries and the United States of America.

Cotton goods.

450. The total value of the cotton goods imported during the year under report recorded an improvement of Rs. 189·23 lakhs, over the preceding year's figure of Rs. 523·32 lakhs. The values of the more important kinds of cotton goods were, twist and yarn Rs. 1, 10·63 lakhs, piece-goods Rs. 5,44·68 lakhs, and other cotton fabrics Rs. 57·24 lakhs, as against the preceding year's figures of Rs. 84·66 lakhs, Rs. 3,86·70 lakhs, and Rs. 51;96 lakhs respectively. In quantity twist and yarn showed a marked improvement, the figure being 16,018,061 lbs., the highest on record since 1927-28. Piece-goods also recorded a similar improvement, from 223,456,174 lbs. in 1931-32 to 351,191,868 lbs. Of this total quantity of piece-goods, 198,461,127 lbs. were grey, 60,028,434 white, and 92,702,307 lbs. coloured, printed or dyed. China was the chief supplier of twist and yarn, with Japan and the United Kingdom following in that order. Japan took pride of place in every variety of cotton piece-goods, except grey bordered dhuties which came chiefly from the United Kingdom. Of the total value of Rs. 6,55·31 lakhs paid during the year for twist and yarn and piece-goods, Rs. 3,12·24 lakhs went to Japan and Rs. 2,86·47 lakhs to the United Kingdom. The very favourable rates of exchange enabled Japan to supply nine times as much yarn as in the previous year.

Silk and artificial silk.

451. The total quantity of silk and artificial silk piece-goods imported during the year was 18,933,873 yards, which is the highest figure recorded since 1927-28. The total value was Rs. 50·05 lakhs as against Rs. 48·09 lakhs in 1931-32 when the lowest figure was reached. The figures for pure silk goods were 1,695,936 yards valued at Rs. 8·10 lakhs, as against 1,525,933 yards at Rs. 10·77 lakhs in 1931-32. Those for mixed silk were 2,675,877 yards at Rs. 6·31 lakhs against 1,130,343 yards at Rs. 4·42 lakhs, and artificial silk 14,562,060 yards at Rs. 35·64 lakhs against 10,798,863 yards at Rs. 32·90 lakhs in 1931-32. In all these three varieties Japan was the principal supplier. The second place was occupied by China in pure silk and by the United Kingdom in artificial silk.

Woollen goods.

452. The aggregate value of the woollen goods imported during the year under report rose from Rs. 30·15 lakhs in 1931-32 to

Rs. 46·75 lakhs. The improvement was shared by all the items of import under this head. The figures for the year were, braids 7,159 lbs. valued at Rs. ·16 lakhs, carpets, rugs and blankets 1,719,306 lbs. at Rs. 12·49 lakhs, hosiery 118,845 lbs. at Rs. 2·40 lakhs, yarn and knitting wool 229,940 lbs. at Rs. 4·74 lakhs, piece-goods 2,182,518 yards at Rs. 23·60 lakhs, and shawls 70,514 pieces at Rs. 2·48 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were, braids 2,060 lbs. valued at Rs. ·06 lakhs, carpets, etc., 1,138,734 lbs. at Rs. 7·91 lakhs, hosiery 33,475 lbs. at Rs. 1·56 lakhs, yarn and knitting wool 194,899 lbs. at Rs. 3·62 lakhs, piece-goods 1,077,185 yards at Rs. 13·82 lakhs, and shawls 90,427 pieces at Rs. 2·78 lakhs. Fifty per cent. of the woollen goods was supplied by Italy, the United Kingdom coming next with twenty-five per cent.

Other articles.

453. Items not of sufficient importance to merit separate treatment are shown under this head. As in the case of more important articles already referred to in detail most of the articles shown under this head showed a decline in trade. The exceptions were, non-mineral oils which rose from Rs. 44·62 lakhs to Rs. 65·30 lakhs in consequence of a recovery in the cocoanut oil trade from Rs. 37·44 lakhs to Rs. 54·71 lakhs; hardware, in which Germany's share improved by Rs. 10 lakhs; paints, etc.; jewellery, and precious stones, the major part of which was re-exported to Nepal; cycles; dyeing and tanning materials; building and engineering materials; and toilet requisites. The trade in instruments, apparatus and appliances remained steady, but Japan increased her share of electrical goods by Rs. 6 lakhs at the expense of the European countries. Imports of stationery, wood and timber and soap also remained steady. On the other hand, there were heavy falls in the import of provisions and oilman's stores; of spices, for which betelnuts from the Straits Settlements were mainly responsible; of grain, pulse and flour; and of railway carriages and arms and ammunition, which dropped from Rs. 17·13 lakhs to Rs. 9·66 lakhs. Smaller decreases occurred in the cases of rubber, tea-chests, boots and shoes, books, apparel and umbrellas. The value of unspecified articles imported by post fell by Rs. 14·62 lakhs to Rs. 65·63 lakhs.

Import trade of Chittagong.

454. Chittagong is the only other port of the Bengal open to foreign trade. A noticeable feature of its import trade with foreign countries has been the steady decline since 1927-28, when the total value of imports was Rs. 2,81·65 lakhs. The figure for the year under review was Rs. 72·46 lakhs, as against Rs. 82·01 lakhs in 1931-32. Imports of salt, mostly from Aden, expanded from 27,053 tons to 48,698 tons. Tea chests and chemicals maintained their importance, but practically all other articles showed

substantial decreases, particularly galvanised sheets and plates, wrought iron tubes, etc., cotton goods, and railway carriages and wagons. About 79 per cent. of the total imports came from the United Kingdom.

Exports.

455. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta to foreign ports:—

	1931-32.	1932-33.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Jute manufactures	21,86,17,829	21,65,41,014	41·68
Tea	10,64,86,193	9,42,16,617	18·14
Jute, raw	10,38,59,230	9,34,70,318	19·00
Hides and skins, raw	2,33,31,113	1,86,65,397	3·60
Grain, pulse and flour	1,90,23,720	1,62,27,122	3·13
Metals and ores	2,00,91,725	1,59,03,812	3·07
Lac	1,82,67,866	1,23,80,809	2·39
Seeds	1,08,96,799	59,82,124	1·16
Woollen manufactures	40,21,808	46,47,629	·89
Coal and coke	54,83,891	44,04,571	·85
Oilcakes	46,76,827	44,09,954	·85
Paraffin wax	32,74,740	35,49,777	68
Dyeing and tanning substances ..	32,93,738	29,57,068	·57
Mica	31,76,731	26,03,465	·50
Hemp, raw	19,21,921	22,69,257	·44
Cotton, raw	23,17,022	21,83,384	·42
Postal articles	22,09,723	18,80,484	·36
Bones	30,38,056	15,93,632	·31
Spices	15,08,829	15,93,591	·31
Drugs and medicines	8,59,735	14,54,261	·28
Provisions and oilman's stores ..	18,45,672	14,78,611	·28
Leather	7,69,664	12,39,293	·24
Opium	86,92,000	11,24,000	·22
Saltpetre	9,06,462	8,58,848	·16
Manures	17,99,706	7,03,294	·14
Apparel	8,80,939	7,01,820	·14
Tobacco	7,34,581	6,62,436	·13
Oils	7,08,722	5,98,263	·11
Paints and painter's materials ..	3,45,633	4,68,322	·09
Kapok	3,22,613	4,63,790	·09
Instruments, apparatus and appliances	4,50,095	4,48,728	·09
Cordage and rope	4,51,732	3,65,829	·07
Other articles	39,09,111	31,90,055	·61
Total Indian merchandise ..	57,81,74,417	51,92,37,575	100·00

Grain, pulses and flour.

456. The total quantity of grain, pulses and flour exported during the year under report fell below the preceding year's figure of 150,849 tons by 526 tons only, but the value dropped from Rs. 1,90·24 lakhs to Rs. 1,62·27 lakhs. The fall was noticeable in rice, which fell from 123,178 tons valued at Rs. 1,57·87 lakhs in 1931-32 to 120,794 tons at Rs. 1,31·18 lakhs, and also in wheat flour which dropped from 2,222 tons valued at Rs. 2·59 lakhs to

950 tons valued at Rs. 1·32 lakhs. Pulses showed a rise in quantity from 24,285 tons to 25,664 tons, but the value dropped from Rs. 28·87 lakhs to Rs. 27·83 lakhs. The export of cereals other than rice showed a rise both in value and quantity from 1,164 tons valued at Rs ·91 lakhs in 1931-32 to 2,915 tons valued at Rs. 1·94 lakhs. Ceylon was the chief purchaser of Bengal rice with 27,691 tons valued at Rs. 31·41 lakhs. Mauritius, Arabia and Natal were the next in order, with 18,674 tons at Rs. 20·70 lakhs, 17,573 tons at Rs. 16·62 lakhs, and 12,647 tons at Rs. 14·86 lakhs respectively. The exports to other countries were all below ten thousand tons, those to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Germany showing heavy decreases.

457. The year proved to be one of great distress for the tea industry. Favourable climatic conditions led to an increase in production which, in a market already overstocked and with the diminishing purchasing power of the consumer, accounted for the heavy decline in prices. Exports to foreign countries increased form 295,294,196 lbs. to 323,824,706 lbs., but the value dropped from Rs. 15,49·80 lakhs to Rs. 12,53·26 lakhs. The demand from the United Kingdom rose from 170,176,247 to 190,000,374, lbs., that from Canada from 14,090,187 to 16,676,087 lbs., and that from the United States of America from 9,608,653 to 10,915,598 lbs. Imperial preference was an important factor in the improved trade registered with Canada, but the expected response from Australia did not materialise, shipments being the lowest recorded for many years. Prices of all grades of tea suffered, the outstanding feature being the almost negligible difference between the prices of medium and common qualities. Only the very best teas, the supply of which was not plentiful, found a good market. The average price per pound fell from 7 annas 10 pies in 1931-32 to 6 annas 5 pies. Restrictions on the export of tea from India to foreign countries came into force with effect from May 26th, 1933, and it is to be hoped that the result will be favourable to trade during the following year. Tea.

458. The total quantity of coal exported during the year under report dropped from 514,943 tons in 1931-32 to 451,564 tons, and the value from Rs. 54·47 lakhs to Rs. 43·68 lakhs. Owing to cheaper prices the value received was less from every purchaser, although Hongkong increased her purchases from 162,265 tons to 188,571 tons. Exports to every other port showed considerable shrinkage both in quantity and in value, the decrease being noticeable in the cases of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. Coal.

459. There has been a steady decline in the export of lac since 1928-29. The total quantity (both manufactured and unmanufactured) exported during the year under report was 415,588 tons Lac.

valued at Rs. 1,23·81 lakhs, as against 456,572 tons valued at Rs. 1,82·68 lakhs in 1931-32 and 721,803 tons valued at Rs. 8,47·36 lakhs in 1928-29. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany and Japan are the chief customers for Bengal lac, and they all reduced their purchases. The reduction was most noticeable in the case of the United States of America, whose share of the trade fell from 101,808 tons valued at Rs. 44·49 lakhs in 1931-32 to 66·773 tons valued at Rs. 22·26 lakhs. France increased her purchase from 10,775 tons in 1931-32 to 12,133 tons, but due to cheaper prices the value received dropped from Rs. 4·72 lakhs to Rs. 3·95 lakhs. There were no noticeable fluctuations in the shares of the minor purchasers.

Hides and skins.

460. The hides and skins trade of Bengal has shown a steady decline since 1927-28, when 39,749 tons valued at Rs. 5,83·81 lakhs were exported. The total quantity exported during the year under report was 15,417 tons, and value received amounted to Rs. 1,96·95 lakhs only, against the preceding year's figures of 19,368 tons and Rs. 2,40·45 lakhs. The decline is reflected both in raw hides and raw skins, which form the chief classes of goods under this head. The figures were raw hides 8,349 tons valued at Rs. 43·09 lakhs, and raw skins 6,911 tons valued at Rs. 1,43·53 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were, raw hides 10,710 tons valued at Rs. 63·77 lakhs, and raw skins 8,544 tons valued at Rs. 1,69·48 lakhs. Cuttings of raw hides and skins improved from 43 tons to 50 tons but there was a drop in value from ·06 lakhs to Rs. ·03 lakhs. The quantity exported during the year under report was, however, remarkably low when the figures for 1928-29 and the two subsequent years are taken into account. The figures for those years were 1,872 tons in 1928-29, 1,550 tons in 1929-30 and 1,042 tons in 1930-31. The export of dressed hides and skins showed a rise from 71 tons valued at Rs. 7·14 lakhs to 107 tons valued at Rs. 10·30 lakhs. Germany was the chief customer of raw hides, with Italy following next. Their purchases during the year were 3,129 tons valued at Rs. 16·52 lakhs and 1,674 tons valued at Rs. 8·29 lakhs respectively. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were, Germany 4,189 tons valued at Rs. 26·56 lakhs, and Italy 2,030 tons valued at Rs. 11·15 lakhs. The purchases of all other countries also dropped, except those of Greece, which rose from 563 tons valued at Rs. 3·18 lakhs to 904 tons valued at Rs. 4·15 lakhs. The fall in the purchases of Sweden, Norway, Spain, Turkey, and Bulgaria were most marked. The bulk of raw skins goes to the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Their purchases during the year were 3,209 tons valued at Rs. 50·12 lakhs and 1,987 tons valued at Rs. 38·33 lakhs respectively, as against

6,199 tons valued at Rs. 1,17·32 lakhs and 1,216 tons valued at Rs. 20·17 lakhs in 1931-32. The purchases of France, the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium, on the other hand, showed an increase.

461. The steady decline in the export of metals and ores noticed since 1927-28 continued during the year under report, the figures for the year being 483,094 tons valued at Rs. 1,50·04 lakhs, as against 610,870 tons valued at Rs. 2,00·92 lakhs in 1931-32. Manganese ore and iron and steel are the principal goods exported under this head. The former declined from 149,348 tons valued at Rs. 42·93 lakhs in 1931-32 to 137,224 tons valued at Rs. 37·29 lakhs, and the latter from 451,289 tons valued at Rs. 1,48·72 lakhs to 329,775 tons valued at Rs. 1,10·02 lakhs. The quantity of pig iron exported during the year was 218,374 tons valued at Rs. 74·30 lakhs, against 350,858 tons valued at Rs. 1,22·70 lakhs in 1931-32. The United Kingdom was the best purchaser of metals and ores, but her share of the manganese trade came down from 46,967 tons valued at Rs. 14·22 lakhs in 1931-32 to 37·402 tons valued at Rs. 10·28 lakhs. Japan was the second best purchaser of pig iron, and her purchases during the year also came down to 71,371 tons, against 188,106 tons in 1931-32. In mangaaese ore, however, Japan's trade expanded from 5,979 tons to 30,598 tons. France also increased her purchase of manganese from 31,902 tons to 36,921 tons. Metals and ores.

462. The export of mica has steadily declined since 1929-30, when the figures were 102,116 cwts. valued at Rs. 85·90 lakhs. The total quantity exported during the year under report was 34,354 cwts. valued at Rs. 26·03 lakhs, as compared with 46,108 cwts. valued at Rs. 31·77 lakhs in 1931-32 and 62,366 cwts. valued at Rs. 55·98 lakhs in 1930-31. Of the total quantity exported during the year under report block mica amounted to 6,467 cwts. valued at Rs. 13·58 lakhs, and mica splittings to 27·887 cwts. valued at Rs. 12·45 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were, block mica 5,448 cwts. valued at Rs. 9·38 lakhs and mica splittings 40,660 cwts. valued at Rs. 22·39 lakhs. The major part of the decline was shared by the United Kingdom and the United States of America, whose purchases came down from 18,410 cwts. valued at Rs. 14·93 lakhs and 12,678 cwts. valued at Rs. 7·32 lakhs in 1931-32 to 13,131 cwts. valued at Rs. 12·58 lakhs and 7,881 cwts. valued at Rs. 4·40 lakhs respectively. Germany's share of the trade rose from 3,301 cwts. valued at Rs. 1·43 lakhs in 1931-32 to 5,281 cwts. valued at Rs. 2·41 lakhs. Japan's share also improved slightly from 4,053 cwts. valued at Rs. 2·06 lakhs to 4,268 cwts. valued at Rs. 2·84 lakhs. The shares of Italy, France and other minor purchasers receded. Mica.

Oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes.

463. Oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes recorded a fall in trade both in value as well as in quantity. The total value received for these articles was Rs. 1,07·80 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,61·19 lakhs in 1931-32, Rs. 3,67·38 lakhs in 1930-31 and Rs. 4,72·68 lakhs in 1929-30. The total quantity of oilseeds exported during the year under report was 50,794 tons valued at Rs. 57·79 lakhs, as against 87,428 tons valued at Rs. 1,07·40 lakhs in 1931-32. Of this total quantity, linseed alone accounted for 47,159 tons (including 1,450 tons shipped "for orders" to Egypt) valued at Rs. 52·24 lakhs, castor seed for 3,347 tons valued at Rs. 4·52 lakhs as against 10,391 tons valued at Rs. 13·00 lakhs, tea seed for 52 tons valued at Rs. 65 lakhs against 609 tons valued at Rs. 7·36 lakhs, and other seeds for 236 tons valued at Rs. ·38 lakhs against 848 tons valued at Rs. 1·36 lakhs. During the year 382,832 gallons of vegetable oils valued at Rs. 5·91 lakhs were exported as compared with 437,210 gallons valued at Rs. 7·02 lakhs in 1931-32. The detailed figures were, mustard and rape oil 193,328 gallons valued at Rs. 2·99 lakhs, castor oil 145,075 gallons valued at Rs. 2·18 lakhs, and linseed oil 42,897 gallons valued at Rs. ·68 lakhs. Oilcakes exported during the year amounted to 66,288 tons valued at Rs. 44·10 lakhs, as compared with 67,804 tons valued at Rs. 46·77 lakhs in 1931-32. France was foremost in the list of purchasers of linseed, with the United Kingdom. Australia and Greece following next in order. Japan and the United Kingdom were the principal dealers in castor seed.

Cotton.

464. The export of raw cotton recorded a fall from 4,004 tons valued at Rs. 22·32 lakhs in 1931-32 to 3,749 tons valued at Rs. 21·83 lakhs. Reduced purchases by the United States of America, whose share of the exports forms about one-third of this trade, was responsible for the fall. Her purchases during the year came down from 1,793 tons valued at Rs. 10·16 lakhs to 849 tons valued at Rs. 5·27 lakhs. Shipments to France, the next best purchaser, showed an increased from 452 tons valued at Rs. 4·23 lakhs. Germany's share of the trade fell in quantity from 517 tons to 594 tons, but the value increased from Rs. 3·50 lakhs to Rs. 3·84 lakhs. A steady increase in the United Kingdom's share of the trade is noticeable since 1928-29 when she purchased 57 tons valued at Rs. ·54 lakhs only. Her purchases during the year under report were 389 tons valued at Rs. 2·11 lakhs. Japan, Belgium and Australia also made increased purchases, namely, 407 tons valued at Rs. 1·95 lakhs, 256 tons valued at Rs. 1·49 lakhs, and 263 tons at Rs. 1·48 lakhs, as against 144 tons valued at Rs. ·79 lakhs, 37 tons valued at Rs. ·22 lakhs, and 155 tons valued at Rs. ·95 lakhs respectively.

465. The total quantity of raw hemp exported during the year under report was 201,650 cwts. valued at Rs. 22·69 lakhs, compared with 169,777 cwts. valued at Rs. 19·22 in 1931-32, 225,325 cwts. valued at Rs. 47·11 lakhs in 1929-30 and 453,913 cwts. valued at Rs. 68·07 lakhs in 1928-29. Germany was the best purchaser of raw hemp, with the United Kingdom, Greece, Belgium, Italy and Denmark following in that order. Hemp.

466. The decline in the jute trade noticed since 1928-29 continued during the year under report. Although the total quantity of jute and jute manufactures improved by 7,312 tons over the preceding year's figure of 1,213,672 tons, the value received during the year fell by Rs. 1,24·66 lakhs below the preceding year's figure of Rs. 32,24·77 lakhs. In spite of the low level of prices exports of raw jute declined slightly, in particular to the United Kingdom. Shipments from Calcutta dropped from 551,284 tons to 542,462 tons, and from Chittagong from 33,395 tons to 19,147 tons. The average shipment price was Rs. 30-12-4 per bale of 400 lbs. as compared with Rs. 33-10-3 in 1931-32, Rs. 37-1-2 in 1930-31 and Rs. 59-14-6 in 1929-30. There was a slight rise in the export of gunny bags, viz., from 387,854,629 pieces valued at Rs. 1,091·13 lakhs in 1931-32 to 414,360,740 pieces valued at Rs. 11,13·27 lakhs, but this was counterbalanced by smaller shipments of gunny cloths, which receded from 1,019,697,002 yards valued at Rs. 10,41·78 lakhs to 1,010,258,684 yards valued at Rs. 10,21·13 lakhs. Quotations for standard bags and cloth fluctuated considerably during the year. The opening and closing balances were as follows:—Sugar bags Rs. 35-8 and 26; B twills Rs. 28 and Rs. 21-6; Hessian 8 ozs. cloth Rs. 8-9 and Rs. 8-1; and Hessian 10½ ozs. cloth Rs. 11-8 and Rs. 10-6. The shares of the principal purchasers of jute and the jute manufactures during the year under report were as follows:—Raw jute: Germany 119,978 tons valued at Rs. 2,07·51 lakhs, the United Kingdom 114,687 tons valued at Rs. 1,96·68 lakhs, and France 67,508 tons valued at Rs. 1,13·37 lakhs; and gunny bags: Australia 106,157,826 pieces valued at Rs. 3,28·61 lakhs, the United Kingdom 46,458,219 pieces valued at Rs. 1,07·26 lakhs, and Hongkong 24,921,100 pieces valued at Rs. 64·25 lakhs. Gunny cloth worth Rs. 5,10·34 lakhs went to the United States of America, Rs. 2,47·15 worth was shipped to the Argentine, and Rs. 65·04 to Canada. There was an improvement in the export of raw jute to Spain, the Netherlands and Japan; but a decrease in respect of the United States, Belgium, Italy, and Brazil. The export of gunny bags to Siam, Chile, Peru, the United States, Japan, Indo-China, Canada, Turkey, and Germany increased, but there was a fall in the figures for Hongkong, Cuba, Java, Straits Settlements, Natal, Egypt, Jute and jute manufactures.

West Indies, Portuguese East Africa, Hawaii, Russia, France, and China.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

467. During the year 499,190 cwts. of dyeing and tanning substances valued at Rs. 29·57 lakhs were exported, as against 561,857 cwts. valued at Rs. 32·94 lakhs during the preceding year. Smaller demands for myrobalans was responsible for this decline in the trade. The total quantity of myrobalans exported during the year was 467,790 cwts. valued at Rs. 25·27 lakhs as against 549,915 cwts. valued at Rs. 29·85 lakhs in 1931-32. Of this, 194,635 cwts. went to the United Kingdom, 79,618 cwts. to Germany and 65,003 cwts. to the Netherlands. The export of myrobalan extracts improved from 3,781 cwts. valued at Rs. ·42 lakhs to 20,517 cwts. at Rs. 2·20 lakhs.

Other articles.

468. Woollen manufactures showed a marked improvement of Rs. 6·26 lakhs due mainly to a better demand for carpets and rugs from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. This result, coupled with the fact that exports and re-exports of raw wool declined by nearly Rs. 11 lakhs in spite of an increase of 50 per cent. in imports, suggests that the indigenous woollen industry is making good headway. Exports of paraffin wax recovered as the result of larger shipments to Portuguese East Africa, partly counterbalanced by smaller shipments to China. Larger quantities of chillies to Ceylon accounted for a small increase in the export of spices. Under drugs and medicines shipments of putchuck to Hongkong rose from Rs. 6·99 lakhs to Rs. 13·25 lakhs. There was a better demand from the United Kingdom for Indian leather. Most of the other articles recorded a further decline. The demand from Belgium for bones dropped from Rs. 26·59 lakhs to Rs. 13·33 lakhs. Exports of provisions and oilman's stores declined by Rs. 3·67 lakhs, mainly due to smaller quantities of ghee shipped to the Straits Settlements. In accordance with the policy of progressive restriction in the consumption of opium exports dropped to the record low figure of Rs. 11·24 lakhs, all of which went to Indo-China. Unmanufactured tobacco was in less demand by Japan. Exports of manures, saltpetre, and apparel declined. The value of articles exported by post fell from Rs. 22·1 lakhs to Rs. 18·80 lakhs.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

469. Exports of tea increased in volume from 78 million lbs. to nearly 90 million lbs., but as in the case of Calcutta the prices were so low that the value realised declined by Rs. 1,83·84 lakhs. Exports of jute dropped from 33,395 tons to 19,147 tons, and of paraffin wax from 10,031 tons to 4,950 tons. The total value of exports was Rs. 3,80·75 lakhs as against Rs. 6,21·93 lakhs in 1931-32. Approximately 94 per cent. of the export trade of this port was with the United Kingdom.

Distribution of the foreign trade of Calcutta.

470. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal foreign countries :—

	Imports.				Exports.				Percentage of total trade.	
	1931-32.		1932-33.		1931-32.		1932-33.			
	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	1931-32.	1932-33.
United Kingdom	12,85·86	38·00	14,23·31	41·01	15,66·03	26·84	13,99·05	26·77	30·94	32·46
British Possessions	3,45·14	10·20	2,84·92	8·20	10,41·09	17·85	10,81·55	20·71	15·04	15·71
Germany	2,29·31	6·78	2,48·15	6·78	3,22·34	5·52	2,89·10	5·54	5·98	6·18
Belgium	54·82	1·62	98·47	1·62	1,64·79	2·83	1,22·60	2·34	2·38	2·54
France	35·95	1·06	28·88	1·06	1,63·96	2·81	1,81·87	3·48	2 17	2·42
Italy	80·98	2·39	90·75	2·39	1,09·91	1·88	88·16	1·69	2·07	2·06
Japan	4,12·94	12·20	5,78·63	12·20	1,86·57	3·20	1,44·86	2·77	6·54	8·27
Java	1,86·46	5·51	1,35·62	5·51	1,14·29	1·96	48·64	·93	3·26	2·12
United States	3,44·06	10·17	2,57·70	10·17	10,93·16	18·74	7,97·99	15·28	15·59	12·14
South America	·03	·00	·08	·00	2,23·10	3·82	3,56·29	6·81	2·42	4·10
Other countries	4,08·55	12·07	3,24·50	11·06	8,48·83	14·55	7,14·61	13·68	14·61	12·00
Total ..	33,84·10	1,00·00	34,71·01	1,00·00	58,34·07	1,00·00	52,24·72	1,00·00	1,00·00	1,00·00

British Empire. 471. There was an improvement of Rs. 77·23 lakhs in imports, but although the volume of exports increased the value declined by Rs. 1,26·52 lakhs, the net result being an adverse balance of Rs. 49 lakhs. As regards the United Kingdom the total value of imports improved from Rs. 12,85 lakhs to Rs. 14,23 lakhs, but the total export trade declined from Rs. 15,66 lakhs to Rs. 13,99 lakhs. Cotton piece-goods partially recovered from last year's setback, and imports rose to Rs. 2,60 lakhs against Rs. 1,61 lakhs in the previous year. The demand for new plants for the manufactured and refinement of sugar accounted for the increase under machinery and millwork from Rs. 2,28 lakhs to Rs. 2,76 lakhs. Jewellery valued at Rs. 29 lakhs, most of which was re-exported to Nepal, was a special feature of the year. Receipts of metals improved by Rs. 10 lakhs, and of manures by Rs. 5 lakhs, Arms, paper, tobacco, and postal articles not specified, recorded noticeable decreases. On the export side although the volume of tea exported actually increased by 20 million lbs., the slump in prices caused the value to drop by more than a crore of rupees. Jute and jute manufactures accounted for a reduction of Rs. 77 lakhs, and the value of lac fell by Rs. 12 lakhs. There were increased shipments of hides and skins, leather and oilcakes. So far as the Dominions and the Colonies were concerned imports declined from Rs. 3,45 lakhs to Rs. 2,85 lakhs. Arrivals of wheat from Australia fell from Rs. 49 lakhs to Rs. 23 lakhs, and of horses from Rs. 21 lakhs to Rs. 19,000. Betelnuts from the Straits Settlements heavily declined from Rs. 78 lakhs to Rs. 52 lakhs, but tin rose slightly from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 27 lakhs. Cocoanut oil was the principal article coming from Ceylon, and rose from Rs. 37 lakhs to Rs. 48 lakhs. Salt from Aden fell by over Rs. 10 lakhs, and cloves and raw cotton from Zanzibar and Kenya respectively also recorded decreases. As regards exports Australia took more gunny bags and cloth, thereby enhancing the value from Rs. 2,71 lakhs to Rs. 3,64 lakhs, and the quantity actually exceeded that of 1930-31, although, owing to the lower level in prices, the value was considerably less. Indian tea appears to be losing its popularity in Australia, and exports further declined from Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 14 lakhs. Canada took more tea and jute manufactures. Ceylon severely cut down her indents for Bengal coal.

Europe. 472. Germany sent more machinery, hardware and metals. Imports from Belgium increased, due to large consignments of sugar mill machinery (Rs. 28 lakhs) and precious stones (Rs. 19 lakhs), the latter being intended mostly for Nepal. Woollen manufactures and articles imported by post from Italy appreciably increased, whereas France sent less wine and the Netherlands less provisions and cotton manufactures. Exports of grains, hides,

lac and jute to Germany declined. Belgium took less hemp, jute and lac. France and the Netherlands increased their demands for hides and jute, whereas Italy curtailed hers. Russia received less tea and jute.

473. Almost all the principal articles imported from Japan, especially cotton goods, recorded increases. Supplies of sugar from Java and of cotton twist and yarn from China decreased considerably. On the export side Japan's demand for lac, pig iron, linseed, manures and oilcakes declined, although this was partly compensated for by increased shipments of jute and jute manufactures. In consequence of smaller shipments of sugar Java's requirements of gunny bags dropped from Rs. 96 lakhs to Rs. 41 lakhs. China took less jute and jute manufactures and paraffin wax. The export trade to Turkish ports in Asia appears to be regaining its former importance. **Asia.**

474. Import trade did not vary much, although a little more salt came from Italian East Africa. Exports of the principal articles to Egypt heavily declined, but paraffin wax to Portuguese East Africa recorded an improvement. **Africa.**

475. The import trade with the United States showed a considerable decline owing to very poor receipts of mineral oils and motor cars. The demand for American tobacco, however, was re-established. Among exports to the United States tea alone showed an improvement. Exports to South American countries increased substantially, due to heavier purchases of gunny cloth by the Argentine Republic amounting to Rs. 2,47 lakhs against Rs. 1,19 lakhs in the previous year. More gunny bags were also exported to Chile and Peru, but shipments of raw jute to Brazil and gunny cloth to Uruguay declined. **America**

COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1932-33.]

476. The total value of the trade of Calcutta with other Indian ports, British as well as non-British, was Rs. 27,85,22 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 27,95·77 lakhs in 1931-32. The value of the total imports was Rs. 17,27·62 lakhs as against Rs. 17,08·95 lakhs in 1931-32, and exports Rs. 10,57·60 lakhs as against Rs. 10,86·82 lakhs. **General position.**

477. The rise in Bombay's share of imports was accounted for by increased receipts of grey piece-goods, which advanced from Rs. 3,40 lakhs to Rs. 4,90 lakhs. Shipments of wheat, flour and salt from Karachi improved. Madras sent more raw cotton and manufactured tobacco, but less cotton goods, groundnuts, and cocoanut and groundnut oils. There was a decline in the imports **Imports.**

of rice, mineral oils and timber from Burma. The development of the salt industry was mainly responsible for the fair improvement in the trade with the non-British Indian ports.

Exports.

478. The decline in exports to Bombay is accounted for by smaller shipments of jute manufactures, paper and tea. Sind received more gunny bags, copper and iron. Madras purchased larger quantities of rice and iron, but took less coal, paper and gunny bags. Exports to Burma were affected by lesser demands for gunny bags, coal, spices and tobacco. Non-British Indian ports made an all-round improvement in their demands, from which coal, iron and tea benefited most.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Port and port approaches.

479. The Middleton bar, which is the first of the obstructions encountered by inward bound ships, was the shoalest or governing bar for 355 days of the year, as against 320 days in previous year. A considerable amount of dredging was done on this bar during the cold weather, and the maximum and minimum depths remained much the same as in 1931-32. The Eastern Gut bar was the govering factor for 10 days, compared with 19 in 1931-32, and the average available depth of 17 feet 7 inches was 1 inch greater than that of the previous year and 3 feet 2·25 inches greater than the average for the pre-dredging period prior to 1907. Of the five bars in the upper reaches Poojali was exceptionally shoal, but the others remained in fair condition. During the year 281 vessels used the lighted channel between Garden Reach and Uluberia, and of this number 214 anchored at Uluberia. It is satisfactory to note that the Uluberia anchorage was used continuously throughout the year, whereas previously it was not considered safe to use it during the freshet season, *i.e.*, from August 15th to November 5th.

Trade.

480. During the year 1,174 vessels with a net tonnage of 3,828,983 tons entered the port, as against 1,263 vessels with a net tonnage of 4,189,742 tons in the previous year. The total tonnage of seaborne traffic at the port was 7,517,196 tons as against 7,928,124 tons in the previous year.

Finance.

481. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,46,36,680 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,53,65,300, as compared with Rs. 3,13,44,354 in 1931-32. Although the income of the port is dependent mainly upon trade conditions, expenditure does not vary directly with the amount of traffic passing through the port. Large reductions in expenditure do not therefore occur automatically with a decline in trade. The decrease in expenditure during the year has been obtained by sustained efforts to economise in

every direction. On the recommendation of the Port Commissioners' Economy Committee a saving was effected by the cuts in pay and allowances of the Commissioners' employees, and charges were increased with effect from the 1st April 1933. Despite economies the deficit on the year's working was Rs. 7,28,619, and to cover this an appropriation of Rs. 7,50,000 was made from the Revenue Reserve Fund. This fund amounted to Rs. 52,63,692 at the close of the year. The total expenditure on capital works during the year amounted to only Rs. 5,16,101.

482. The income of the bridge amounted to Rs. 3,54,186 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,70,409. There was therefore a surplus on the year's working of Rs. 83,776, which was transferred to General Reserve. Reduction of expenditure was made mainly on establishment, maintenance, and repairs. The bridge was opened on 275 occasions, and 3,999 vessels passed through the bridge during the year. **Howrah bridge.**

Inland Steam Vessels Act I of 1917.

483. The number of vessels surveyed at Calcutta and Chittagong was 343 and 271 inland steam vessels, and 85 and 82 inland motor vessels respectively. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 34,502 at Calcutta and to Rs. 23,288 at Chittagong. **Surveys.**

484. Ninety-two passed out of 280 candidates examined at Calcutta for certificates of competency as engine-drivers of inland steam or motor vessels. This includes permits to take charge of inland motor vessels of 40 B.H.P. or less. At Chittagong 14 passed out of 35 candidates for similar certificates. Out of 284 candidates examined at Calcutta for masters' and serangs' certificates 48 passed. **Examinations.**

CHAPTER XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and the Working of Act XXV of 1867.

485. The total number of publications registered was 4,487, of which 3,236 were books and 1,251 periodicals. Of the former 3,097 were original publications as against 3,143 in 1931, and 139 were republications and translations, as against 151 in the previous year. The number of educational books fell from 1,406 in the previous year to 1,176, while the number of non-educational books increased from 1,888 to 2,062.

The press.

486. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in the Presidency during the year under review was 762 as against 704 of the previous year. With the exception of 21, the nature of the edition of which was unknown, this number included 292 newspapers and 449 periodicals, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 273 and 414 respectively. Of the total number of publications 189 were in English, 386 in Bengali, and the remainder in other languages. One hundred and thirty-eight newspapers and periodicals were started and 150 ceased to exist during the year.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

487. During the year under report there was 9 prosecutions under sections 124A and 153A, Indian Penal Code, as against 24 in the previous year. Warnings were issued in 56 cases, as against 49 in the preceding year. In 6 cases security was forfeited. There were 74 cases of proscription under section 99A of the Criminal Procedure Code, as amended by the third schedule of the Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922 (Act XIV of 1922), of which 21 were books, 47 pamphlets, and the rest leaflets and other publications.

General tone of the press.

488. There was little change during the year in the general tone of the press. The extremist section remained dominant in influence, and if it did not use such offensive language as in years past, this was because of the restraint imposed by the Press Act and the Emergency Powers Ordinance. The sympathy of the nationalist press for the civil disobedience movement found expression in glaring headlines and news items and in bitter criticisms of Government motives and measures, and a subdued admiration for terrorists and their activities was ill-concealed, even though open encouragement was rarely in evidence. There were only a few genuinely moderate papers of importance outside the Moslem

press, which, except in matters having a communal complexion, attempted to understand and judge Government with sympathy and fairness. The most noticeable feature of the year was the growing cleavage between the Hindu and Moslem press, and the gradual disappearance of the nationalist section in the latter. The anticipated effects of the Communal Award on the division between the two communities of powers to be transferred by the new constitution mainly contributed to this development.

Ecclesiastical.

489. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year 1932-33, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Reverend Foss Westcott, D.D., Lord Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, the Archdeacon of the Diocese, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 13 Chaplains of the Church of England including one Chaplain temporarily loaned to this Presidency from another Diocese, 13 Clergymen of the additional clergy or other societies, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the most Reverend Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., Archbishop of Calcutta, and 5 Clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church. Establishment.

Hedjaz Pilgrims.

490. During the year under review one ship, the SS. "Alavi," sailed from Calcutta on the 2nd March 1933 with 297 pilgrims for the Hedjaz. The voyage was completed in 16 days. Last year 385 pilgrims were shipped from Calcutta. As a result of the publicity given by Government to the advantages of sailing from Calcutta the number of Bengali pilgrims who embarked at this port this year was proportionately much larger than the number of Bengali pilgrims who sailed from Bombay. Many of those who preferred Bombay to Calcutta were led away by Arab Muallims whose interests do not always coincide with those of the pilgrims. No control can be exercised over these Muallims until the Hedjaz Pilgrims (Muallims) Bill, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in March 1932 and has since been recommitted to a Select Committee, is passed into law without its provisions which apply to the conditions prevailing in Bengal being whittled down.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1932.]

491. During the year under review 8,828 articles were examined in the department as against 8,201 articles in the previous year, showing an increase of 627 articles. The number examined Analytical cases.

in the General Analytical Department including Excise was 2,888 as against 2,673 in 1931, showing an increase of 215 articles. Spectroscopic work was also carried on in the department during this year.

Medico-legal cases.

492. During the year 2,249 medico-legal cases were referred to the department against 2,168 cases in the previous year, showing an increase of 81 cases. The total number of articles examined in the Medico-legal Department during the year was 5,940 as against 5,528 in 1931, showing an increase of 412 articles. Seven hundred and eighty-four human viscera were examined against 729 in 1931, and 124 human tissues against 142 in 1931. The number of animal viscera examined in connection with animal poisoning cases was 53 against 78 in 1931. The figures for successive years show that there has been a rapid decrease in the number of animal viscera sent for examination. Probably this is due to a fall in the price of raw hides or to better check over the activities of cattle poisoners.

Stain cases.

493. The total number of articles received for examination in connection with 1,158 cases of stains was 3,386 against 3,152 in 1931. The table below gives the number of cases as well as the number of articles in stain cases for the last six years:—

	Cases.	Articles.
1927	921	2,361
1928	975	2,667
1929	1,059	2,867
1930	1,083	3,098
1931	1,072	3,152
1932	1,158	3,386

The figures show that the number of stain cases has been steadily increasing year by year.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Reports of the Bengal Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1932-33.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

494. The total number of students on the rolls of the college at the beginning of the session was 185, of whom 176 continued their studies throughout the session. The number of Bengali students was 58 against 56 in the preceding year. The results of the annual and diploma examinations were satisfactory.

College hospitals.

495. During the year 3,390 patients were treated and 170 major operations performed.

496. Owing to extensive outbreaks of rinderpest the mortality of animals from contagious diseases during the year was the highest on record during the last triennium, the total number of deaths being 24,884 against 15,297 and 13,009 in 1931-32 and 1930-31 respectively. Rinderpest accounted for 16,694 deaths against 10,373 in 1931-32, and hæmorrhagic septicæmia for 3,320 against 3,009 in the preceding year. Inoculation campaigns were organised in 748 outbreaks, and 191,172 animals were inoculated against 133,039 in 600 outbreaks during the previous year. The number of deaths among inoculated animals was 905 or 0·5 per cent. of the total. During the year the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons visted 16,587 villages and treated and castrated 175,228 animals, of which as many as 73,303 were brought to the headquarters of the officers for treatment. The number of cases treated at the 49 hospitals and dispensaries rose from 78,455 to 81,255. Civil Veterinary Department.

497. New dispensaries were opened at Jaidebpur in Dacca district and in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district. Preliminary steps have been taken for the installation of Kelvinators for the cold storage of serum in the Mymensingh and Chittagong veterinary hospitals. Hospitals and dispensaries.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1932-33.]

498. During the year the number of visitors rose from 928,501 in 1931-32 to 930,004, and the gate money receipts increased from Rs. 62,141 to Rs. 62,231. The experiment of keeping the garden, excluding the Fancy Fair, open to the public at the ordinary charge of one anna during the Fancy Fair days was continued during the year and proved a great success. The number of one-anna vistors was 19,559 against 15,984 in the previous year. A female Indian rhinoceros, which His Excellency Lord Willingdon very kindly presented to the garden as a mate for the male rhinoceros which Her Excellency the Countness of Willingdon had previously presented, was the most important acquisition during the year. The collection of animals has been well maintained and the number of exhibits has considerably increased. Important gifts were received from the Raja of Dhenkanal, the Raja of Keonjhar, His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur, Dr. S. C. Law, and Messrs. W. K. Dods, D. G. Meston, and P. Edwards. Exchanges of animals and birds were effected with the Taronga Zoological Park Trust of Sydney, the Singapore, Adelaide, and Liverpool Zoos, the Raja of Talcher, G. B. Chapman, Limited, Mr. Alfred Ezra, O.B.E., of London, and Mr. J. Delacour of Marseilles. Gifts were also sent to the Wellington and Clifton

Zoos, and to the Zoological Society of London. Gardening work was well attended to. New flowering shrubs were planted and old trees were replaced by new ones. Exhibits from the garden secured several prizes at the Agri-Horticultural show. Although the Government grant had to be cut down by Rs. 4,000 as a measure of economy it is gratifying to note that the finances of the garden continued to be satisfactory, the total receipts being Rs. 1,19,086 against 1,16,999 in the previous year, and the closing balance being Rs. 4,095 after meeting the expenses for the year.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

499. In the year under review the total footage of films submitted to the Bengal Board for censorship and certified during the year amounted to 2,968,155 feet embracing 943 subjects. Of this footage approximately 9·97 per cent., was Indian, 32·87 per cent. British, 52·49 per cent. American, and 4·67 per cent. of other countries. Not very long ago 98 per cent. of the footage submitted to the Bengal Board of Censors was American, 1 per cent. Indian, and the remaining 1 per cent. of British and other origin. The "talkie" has definitely come to stay, and has practically ousted the silent film. Although 'talkie" appliances are expensive, "talkie" houses have practically doubled in Calcutta within the last few years, and have sprung up in Dacca, Chittagong, Darjeeling, Narayanganj and other places in the mufassil. There is no doubt as to the growing popularity among Indians of films dealing with indigenous subjects. It is remarkable that the film "Chandidas" ran for 52 weeks in Calcutta and drew crowded houses at all performances. Other Indian films have also had long runs, whereas it rarely pays to run a British or American film in Calcutta for more than one or two weeks. Indians generally prefer films dealing with classical and mythological subjects, and with jungle and open air life. Themes dealing with chivalry and war such as are found in "The Three Musketeers" and "All Quiet on the Western Front" are also very popular with them. Films dealing with European sex problems have not much appeal except to a very narrow circle of the intelligentsia. The Bengali "talkie" has not the same wide appeal as a Hindi "talkie", and the result is that for every Bengali "talkie" produced two Hindi versions have to be made to recoup expenses. Bombay, which mainly produces Hindi "talkies," has a definite pull over Bengal in this respect. It is unfortunate that public opinion in Bengal is still against respectable Bengali girls engaging in film work. Bengali girls have a natural gift for histrionics, and the film can provide them with an honourable and lucrative career. Prejudices, however, already appear to be showing signs of breaking down. What

is now necessary is that producers should be enterprising. There is room in Bengal for a cinema school to help to improve the general tone of film acting both of men and women. Improvement in the production and photography of Indian films has been marked in recent years. A great deal of this is due to the importation of American and European camera-men, and not a little to the fact that more Indians are going to Germany, America and other countries to learn the art of film production. The film industry in India has a great future before it.

Administration of the Indian Eelectricty Act, 1910.

[Report of the Electrical Adviser, Bengal, for 1932.]

500. During the year under report six new licences were granted under section 3 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz., (1) the Dishergarh Electric Licence, 1932, (2) the Khulna Electric Licence, 1932, (3) the Midnapore Electric Licence, 1932, (4) the Naihati Electric Licence, 1932, (5) the Asansol Electric Licence, 1932 and (6) the Bankura Electric Licence, 1932. The applications of previous years from Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri and Krishnagar were under consideration. Applications for licences for (*a*) Baidyabati, Champdany and Bhadreswar, (*b*) Gouripore, (*c*) Panihati, Khardah and Titagarh and (*d*) Bhatpara (extended area) were also under consideration, and those for the Himalayan, North Bengal and Darjeeling (1929) licences were either declined by Government or were not further proceeded with by the applicants. No licence was revoked during the year 1932. During the year under report supply was started under the Rishra-Konnagar and Kotrung Electric Licence, 1931, and the Serajganj Electric Licence, 1931. The work on the tunnel under the river Hooghly between the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's southern station and the Botanical Gardens, which was commenced in 1929, was completed during the year. The area of supply of the Howrah Electric Licence, 1926 (amended 1932), was extended; and in some parts of the area the supply of A.C. current for domestic and general purposes was authorised by Government. The re-organization of the supply of electricity under the Darjeeling Electric Licence, 1913, carried out during the year will enable the licensees to give better service to the public and at the same time enable them to extend their operations. The supply of energy to the public by the Mymensingh Bank, Commerce and Industry, Limited, was as satisfactory as could be expected in the prevailing conditions and in view of the inefficient management. Proposals to reorganize the Company's finance with a view to improving the supply of energy to the public were under consideration practically throughout the year, but no decision was reached.

No progress was made by the licensees of the Pabna Electric Licence, 1928, and the work continued to be at a standstill for want of finance. A further extension of time up to the 31st January 1933 for the completion of the work was granted by Government. The progress made in bringing the Berhampore Electric Licence of 1928 into operation, which was unsatisfactory at first, improved during the year. The Bhatpara Riverside Electric (Distribution) Licence, 1929, which was granted to Messrs. T. C. Goswami, B. C. Roy and Sadhan C. Roy was during the year under report transferred to the Riverside (Bhatpara) Electric Supply Company, Limited, while the Kurseong Electric Licence, 1929, granted to Messrs. Harshnath Brothers and Company was transferred to the Kurseong Hydro-Electric Company, Limited, of which Messrs. Sundar and Rai of Kurseong are the Managing Agents. The compulsory works under the Narayanganj Electric Licence, 1930, were completed during the year under review. A part of the compulsory works under the Comilla Electric Licence, 1931, was also completed during the year under report, and permission was given to commence supply from the existing generating plant on condition that a second set of suitable capacity would be installed soon after the commencement of supply. Sanction to the supply of electric energy under section 28 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted to:—(1) The Engineer Superintendent, Government Dockyard, Narayanganj, for the supply of energy to a mosque adjacent to the dockyard. Sanction will lapse when the Narayanganj licensees are in a position to supply the mosque. (Sanction, dated 23rd September 1932.) (2) Messrs. The Ludlow Jute Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the Calcutta Port Commissioners' eight lights along the right bank of the river Hooghly near Uluberia, the sanction to remain in force up to the 11th January 1942 or until a licence is granted for the area containing those lights and the supply of energy commenced, whichever is earlier. (Sanction, dated 23rd September 1932.) (3) Messrs. Andrew Yule and Company, Limited, for the supply of energy from the Delta Jute Mill to a navigation light belonging to the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta on the right bank of the river Hooghly in the district of Howrah, the sanction to remain in force for ten years or until a licence is granted for the area containing the light and the supply of energy commenced, whichever date is earlier. (Sanction, dated 8th July 1932.) (4) Messrs. Callenders Cable and Construction Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to Messrs. James Finlay's tea gardens, viz., Moondakotu, Kalej and Nagri Farm, the sanction to hold good for five years or until a licence is granted for the area including these tea gardens whichever is earlier. (Sanction, dated 21st July

1932.) (5) The Commander, Royal Engineers, Presidency and Assam District, for the supply of energy to Messrs. B. N. Elias and Company, Limited, for distribution to the public in Midnapore, the sanction to remain in force for one year. (Sanction, dated 20th December 1932.) (6) Messrs. B. N. Elias and Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the public of Midnapore. (Sanction, dated 20th December 1932.) There were 83 accidents during the year as against 116 in 1931. Eleven of these were fatal. When breaches of the Indian Electricity Act and Rules were discovered legal action was taken.

Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

501. The Indian Territorial Force units in the Presidency and Assam District comprise one Provincial Territorial Force Unit and three University Training Corps. Their training is carried out under the supervision of Regular officers.

502. The Auxiliary Force units in the Presidency and Assam District consist of Royal Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, Armoured Car, Armoured Train, Light Motor Patrol, and Wireless Telegraph Sections. These compare favourably with their corresponding units in the Regular Army, and the *esprit de corps* and efficiency of the force is reported to be high. Members of the Auxiliary Force were at times employed during the year in guarding armouries at certain places, and one interesting and instructive test embracing all Auxiliary Force units in Calcutta was held during the period under review. This test included the throwing of a cordon of troops round the whole of the city, and the manner in which the Auxiliary Force units carried out their orders reflected most creditably on their training and organisation. Camps were well attended in spite of the fact that members had to sacrifice business interests in order to be present. Most of the training was directed towards "Duties in Aid of the Civil Power." Owing to financial stringency drastic economies were introduced in the Army budget, and in consequence the Auxiliary Force were subjected to the axe, this entailing a total reorganisation of the Force throughout India. Though the age-limit for the active class was raised, and a larger proportion of active members was thus made available for the units, the actual potential numbers did not suffer to any great extent as the enrollable maxima of units remained much the same as hitherto. The University Training Corps was started in 1917, when two companies were formed. In 1921 the Corps was reconstituted under the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920 as the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training Corps. Parades actually started in July 1922 when, as a result of an intensive recruiting campaign, the strength of the unit was increased

to some five hundred and fifty members. In November 1922 a camp was held which was attended by three hundred and fifty members and was found to be very successful. Since then camps have been held annually, the attendance never being lower than 250. All phases of infantry training are included in the syllabus, with the exception of training in automatic weapons. The social amenities of members of the corps have been augmented recently by the reopening of the Calcutta University Training Corps Club. This is situated in the University Senate House, and possesses a fine large club room. It is hoped in the near future to further the interests of the members of the corps by means of a series of lectures on military subjects to be delivered by the permanent staff. It is proposed to publish again the Corps Magazine, which will be a quarterly edition containing articles on military matters including the Annual Sports Meeting held on the conclusion of the training camp.

503. The 11/19th Hyderabad Regiment of the Indian Territorial Force was raised in August 5th, 1921 as the 1st (Territorial) Battalion 94th Russels Infantry, the present designation dating from 1922. The battalion has its headquarters and two companies located at Dinapore, the latter being designated the Bihar and Orissa Wing. Two companies have their headquarters at Calcutta, and are designated the Bengal Wing. The Bengal Wing, like the Bihar and Orissa Wing, is embodied for training for two months annually, these two months being spent in camp on the Calcutta Maidan. The Bengal Wing is composed of residents of Bengal. During the annual camp British and Indian Officers and Indian Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regular Battalions of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment are attached to the Bengal Wing for the organisation and supervision of the annual training. The present strength of the Bengal Wing consists of 314 members, and the administration is at present carried out by the Adjutant of the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training Corps. The popularity of the unit is evident from the numbers of men in all ranks of life who almost daily apply for enrolment, and the annual camps are always well attended. The good attendance of these camps is largely due to the whole-hearted co-operation of the various firms and commercial house which employ the members of the unit, the former invariably permitting their employees to attend the camps when requested to do so.

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